AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT –2025

NIZAMUDDIN URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT – 2025

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December 2026. a
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Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative

demonstrates a model for urban renewal in a non-profit People Public- Private Partnership model. An enhanced level of partnership between the Public and Private Parties in their mutually shared objectives of carrying out a model project leading to conservation based urban development, improved quality of life for local communities and improved access to basic
urban facilities.

PARTNER AGENCIES:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative

a *People* Public - Private Partnership

Archaeological Survey Of India - South Delhi Municipal Corporation - Central Public Works Department
Aga Khan Foundation - Aga Khan Trust For Culture



www.nizamuddinrenewal.org
NizamuddinRenewal
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nizamuddin urban renewal initiative

Supported By:

Public–Private Partnerships foster collaboration between government agencies and private organisations to support the conservation, management and promotion of heritage sites and communities, creation of facilities which enhance the quality of our lives, and overall create a sustainable model of development . Through financial assistance, technical expertise, infrastructure development and visitor engagement initiatives, these partnerships help enhance visitor experiences, ensure sustainable operations and preserve cultural heritage for future generations.
We are grateful for the support to our partners and donors who have played a crucial role in so many diverse project components.

Content



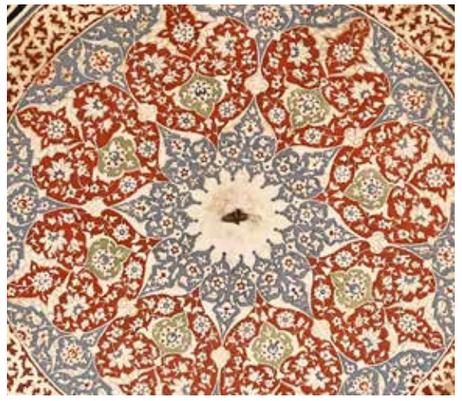
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Executive Summary

"At the turn of the millennium, His Highness the Aga Khan began to envision this entire area as a coherent cultural ensemble in a 300 acre-landscape. Integral to that aspiration was the will to improve the quality of life of the residents of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti, and to revive crafts and artistic traditions in danger of disappearing. Together, we have strived to create for the world an exemplar of thoughtful, collaborative urban revitalisation."
-His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan
at the inauguration of Humayun's Tomb Museum in 2024

On 11 July 2007, the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Archaeological Survey of India, Central Public Works Department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Aga Khan Foundation & Aga Khan Trust for Culture initiated the 'Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative'. Under the aegis of the project hundreds of individual projects have been implemented by the Aga Khan Development Network agencies with our own human and financial resources and without any recourse to government funding. These diverse range of projects have included conservation of 70 monuments, landscaping over 200 acres, significant socio- economic development initiatives in Nizamuddin Basti.

The project culminated with building of the 'Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Museum', a 10,000 sqm facility at the entrance of the World Heritage Site and which provides visitors the cultural context and thus an enhanced visitor experience of the World Heritage Site. The museum building, kept below ground in order not to disturb the views between Sabz Burj and Isa Khan's mausoleum, also serves as an underground bridge allowing visitors safe access from Sunder Nursery to Humayun's Tomb and vice-versa.





(Above) The female workforce participation from women of Nizamuddin basti has increased from 9%in 2008 to 24%in 2025 through groups like Zaika E Nizamuddin (left) and Insha E Noor (right).

With the awareness that the projects required post-project sustainability, in 2018, under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the partner agencies created the 'Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust', with the objective of ensuring sustainability of the projects implemented, assets such as the Gardens and Museum. In more recent years, under the aegis of the 'Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust', maintenance of the Humayun's Tomb gardens, some programmes in Nizamuddin Basti have also been undertaken.

Similarly, a significant effort to ensure sustainability of socio-economic development programmes in the Nizamuddin Basti has focused on the creation of a community-based organization – the 'Association of the Development of Nizamuddin'. With members to this registered society drawn in from a cross section of society in the basti the objective being to sustain the programmes aimed at improving the Quality of Life for residents of the Basti. AKDN continues to handhold the 'Association of the Development of Nizamuddin' and plans to do so as long as our engagement in the larger Nizamuddin area, including Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery continues.

Significant programming of socio-economic programming continues in Nizamuddin including a path breaking community mental health programme.

Socio Economy Project - Nizamuddin: Program Impact Data

Impact Area	Key Indicator	Baseline / 2008	Endline / Current / Achieved
Livelihoods & Women's Economic Participation	Female workforce participation	9%	**24%**
Youth Employment & Skills	Youth receiving vocational training	1%	**24%**
ECCD	Children enrolled in Anganwadis	15%	**50%**
Education	Primary school enrolment	Low/uneven	**Nearly universal**
	Primary completion – Male / Female	77% / 64%	81% / 71%
	Middle school completion – Male / Female	57% / 48%	63% / 54%
	Secondary completion – Male / Female	40% / 34%	44% / 40%
	Higher secondary completion – Male / Female	21% / 21%	25% / 25%
Maternal Health	Institutional deliveries	61%	**94%**
	Women registered during first trimester	5%	**75%**
	Mothers receiving at least 4 ANC visits	55%	**71%**
	Women delivering without ANC check-up	12%	0%
Child Health & Nutrition	Underweight children	41%	**11%**
	Children with complete immunization	28%	**76%**
Health Service Access	Patients treated at SDMC polyclinic	96 per OPD	**612,000 or 200 per OPD**
	Patients benefiting from pathology services	—	**62,545**
	Pathology tests conducted	—	**311,163**
Community Health Outreach	Contact with health workers - men	8%	**77%**
	Contact with health workers - women	27%	**96%**
	People linked to NCD programme	—	**925+**
	People linked to disability services	—	**75+**
	Households using community waste collection	—	**87%**
Sanitation & Waste Management	Household access to toilets	Improved	**Improved access**
	Respondents having a bathroom at home	72%	**88%**
	Households with garbage collected by designated person	46%	**87%**
Open Spaces	Access and use of parks/open spaces	Baseline	**Substantial increase**
	Males reporting easy access to parks/open green spaces within the basti	30%	**97%**
	Females reporting easy access to parks/open green spaces within the basti	45%	**98%**
Women's Empowerment	Women's economic participation, confidence, mobility and decision-making	Baseline	**Improved**
Access to Government Services	Residents assisted with government schemes and documentation	—	**11,167**
Community Mental Health	Clients screened	—	**8,916**
	Clients identified with mental health conditions	—	**1,018**
	Family members supported	—	**3,854**
	Sessions provided to clients experiencing distress	—	**3,193**
Community and Association Life	Residents rating their quality of life as average	72 - 73%	67 - 70%
	Perceived economic improvement in the last 3 years	26%	**53%**
Voice and representation	Percentage of female members of any SHG Committee	4%	**14%**
	Percentage of males who had influence on formal institutions	22%	**31%**
	Percentage of females who had influence on formal institutions	9%	**21%**
Turn Over Insha e Noor (since inception)		—	**3,21,89,308**
Turn Over Zaika e Nizamuddin (since inception)		—	**3,36,22,500**





(Above) The museum auditorium serves as a key platform for cultural festivals, expert talks, sharing conversations on conservation along with facilitating programmes associated with travelling exhibitions.

Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum

In 2025, the museum marked the first full year of operations and we welcomed over 2,43,000 visitors to the permanent exhibition. While the museum is designed as a gateway to the World Heritage Site, 28% of visitors only visited the museum. Surprisingly, with the museum serving as an underground bridge between Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery 37% of visitors to the museum also visited the gardens and Humayun's Tomb – spending upwards of five hours at the World Heritage Site – fulfilling major government objectives

A major achievement at the Humayun's Tomb Museum was the opportunity to host three major international exhibitions in the first year of operations – from Italy and Australia. These exhibitions demonstrate that Humayun's Tomb Museum fulfills a major cultural need for the capital.

In 2025, the auditorium at the Museum Courtyard was inaugurated and created as a cultural venue for performances, lectures and events connected to the permanent and temporary exhibitions at the Museum.

In keeping with visitor expectations worldwide and to provide world class refreshments for visitors spending many hours at the World Heritage Site, the Museum Courtyard at the facilities block of the museum included spaces for Café's and restaurants. In an exhaustive six-month process led by the Superintending Archaeologist, Delhi Circle, shortlisted café outlets participated in a successful auction for these spaces. The Café's and restaurant became operational at end 2025. The rental income from these café's is expected to ensure financial sustainability of museum operations.



A collection of over 2000 artefacts and 500 textiles dating from the 18th century to be displayed in the upcoming Gallery of Everyday Art and Indian Textiles in Humayun's Tomb Site Museum in 2026.

In partnership with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, a major forthcoming temporary exhibition at the Museum Courtyard will by the 'Sanskriti Museum of Everyday Art' and the 'Sanskriti Museum of Indian Textiles'. Together they comprise a unique and world class collection of almost 2500 artefacts/ textiles collected by Shri OP Jain and in 2023 gifted to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Conservation

In 2024, AKTC commenced conservation of the mausolea standing within the Delhi Golf Club, just north of Nizamuddin. By end 2025, four major monuments have been conserved as detailed in this report.

For over ten years AKTC has engaged with Delhi Golf Club's management to undertake urgently needed conservation work on this group of ten monuments as they are part of the cultural landscape centered at Nizamuddin Dargah - just as the monuments standing within the Humayu's Tomb and Government Sunder Nursery.

Despite conservation of over 70 monuments in the 500 acres Humayun's Tomb – Sunder Nursery – Nizamuddin Basti – Delhi Golf Club area, some significant monuments in the area remain under significant risk. These include the Azimganj Serai, Lal Mahal, Do Sirihya Gumbad, Arab Serai, Tilangani's Tomb, amongst others.





ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS WORKSHOPS



CULTURAL PROGRAMMS



SAFEGUARDING & CREATING BIRD HABITAT



PROPOSED GARDENHOUSE

(Left) Sitting adjoining to the humayun's tomb World Heritage Site, Sunder Nursery actively promotes heritage, cultural, educational and environmental events.

Sunder Nursery Gardens

The Sunder Nursery gardens today boast 20 conserved monuments, including six that are counted as part of the World Heritage Site and numerous wells. Also here, over 20,000 native tree saplings of almost 300 species have been planted and 151 bird species have been recorded here. In 2025, X million visitors came to Sunder Nursery to enjoy the diverse attractions – nature (birds, bees, butterflies, diversity of flora), heritage, culture (performances at the amphitheater, bazaar's, fairs and festivals), exercise such as morning walks, environmental awareness, children's playhouse and other facilities. By far the largest group of visitors, through the year, are inter-generational family picnic groups.

Supported by QRG, within Sunder Nursery a state-of-art facility to display tropical and dessert flora is proposed to be built in Sunder Nursery. This will be a unique facility for Delhi and aims to become the hub for environmental awareness amongst the 500,000 school children who visit the Humayun's Tomb – Sunder Nursery annually.

Visitor surveys repeatedly inform us that visitors are attracted to heritage, nature, the 'green and clean' environment, safe and secure space and the weekend bazaar, availability of parking, amongst others.

2026

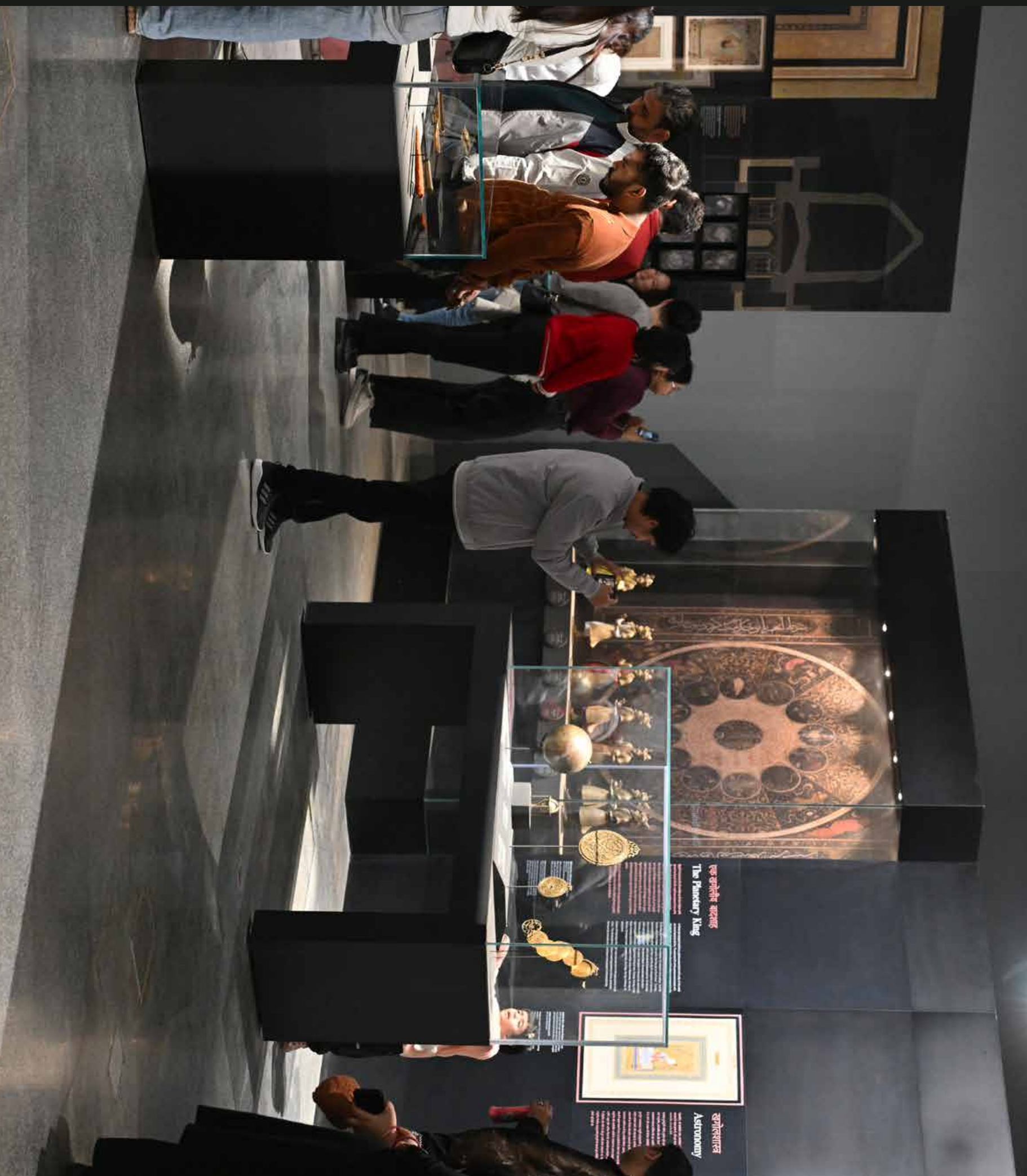
Building on the project activities carried out since 2007, the emphasis for 2026 and future years is to establish a sustainable model for urban conservation that includes significant community engagement. To share project learnings, several publications including one on Sunder Nursery are now planned.

The conservation works at Golf Club, the building of the Garden House, active programme calendar including establishing the Sanskriti Museum are planned for 2026.

Efforts will continue to undertake conservation of Azimganj Serai and monuments in Nizamuddin Basti with the support of the Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation.

HUMAYUN
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
हुमायूँ विश्व धरोहर स्थल संग्रहालय
MUSEUM

Humayun's World Heritage Site Museum



HUMAYUN

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

हुमायूँ विश्वदाय स्थल संग्रहालय

MUSEUM

Archaeological Survey of India

Aga Khan Trust for Culture

1. Humayun's World Heritage Site Museum

"Museums and historic landmarks preserve and reveal the story of humanity. Inherently, they are places that foster connections among people as we delve into our collective, intricate past, and consider how we can collaboratively shape a unified and better future. The Museum thus serves as a link, not only joining Humayun's Tomb with the Sunder Nursery, but also bridging the gap between history and the present."

-His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan

at the inauguration of Humayun's Tomb Museum in 2024

The Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum is a gateway to understanding one of India's most celebrated cultural landscapes. Located at the entrance to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb Complex in New Delhi, the museum enriches every visit by revealing the stories, people, and traditions that gave birth to and shaped the cultural and architectural landscape of India. The Nizamuddin Area which is home to over 100 monuments spanning seven centuries, and where the intangible heritage of India like Nizamuddin Auliya's Sufi teachings, Khusrau's qawaali music, and Rahim's dohes flourished has been one of India's oldest inhabited historic settlements.

Developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, in partnership with Archaeological Survey of India, the museum is the culmination of decades of conservation, research, and community engagement. Through immersive galleries, rare artefacts, digital installations, architectural models, and interactive displays, it traces over seven centuries of history and living heritage of Nizamuddin.

In addition to the Permanent Galleries, the museum is also a venue to an array of art and cultural events ranging from international traveling exhibitions in the temporary galleries, auditorium with a vibrant annual calendar of musical performances, expert talks, heritage and nature walks through the museum and the historic precinct.















1. Architectural models interspersed with large graphic panels
2, 3& 4. Replicas of architectural elements are designed to invoke awe in the visitors and inform them about their craftsmanship
5. Films in the museum provide an immersive experience in storytelling
6 & 7. Over 500 objects from the collection of National Museum, Archaeological Survey of India, and Aga Khan Trust for Culture narrate the seven centuries of Nizamuddin Area's heritage.

Museum Brochure

Gallery
Where the Emperor Rests

This gallery, comprising 8 distinct clusters, takes the visitor on a journey through the incredible life and times of Emperor Humayun. Artefacts, thematic panels and films illustrate his journeys, his interests, his kingship, his spirituality and more.

1 Emperor Humayun's Life
Emperor Humayun, who succeeded the Mughal throne, at the age of 22, was a successful warrior and a capable administrator. Follow his life as a keen romantic, an innovative builder, patron of arts, an avid reader, dedicated scientist, and a just and kind ruler.


Humayun-Nama
18th century Manuscript


Birth of Humayun
18th Century Painting

2 Mughal Gardens
Akbar wanted to create a "paradise on earth" as his beloved father's final resting place and so designed the garden-mausoleum on the banks of the majestic river Yamuna. This enclosed garden is the earliest surviving chahārbāgh, in its purest form.


Paintings from Baburnama, 16th Century

3 Emperor Humayun's Travels
Humayun travelled 34,000 kms. across present-day India, Pakistan, Afghanistan & Iran, seeing more of the world than any other Mughal emperor. His travels took him to over 100 cities stretching from Tabriz on the edge of Europe to Gaur in Bengladesh.


Watercolour of Bagh-e-Babur, Kabul
by James Atkinson, CE 1839


Shah Tahmasp's Dagger
CE 1540


A Warrior's Helmet, Mughal
18th/ 17th century

4 Humayun's Architecture
Humayun had a deep interest in architecture, and in Delhi he built his capital Dinpanah and library Sher Mandal, along with Sabz Burj, Nila Gumbad, Amir Khusrau's grave enclosure, amongst others. These buildings are finely proportioned, boast of intricate ornamentation, stone carving, incised and decorative plasterwork, glazed tiles and painted ceilings.

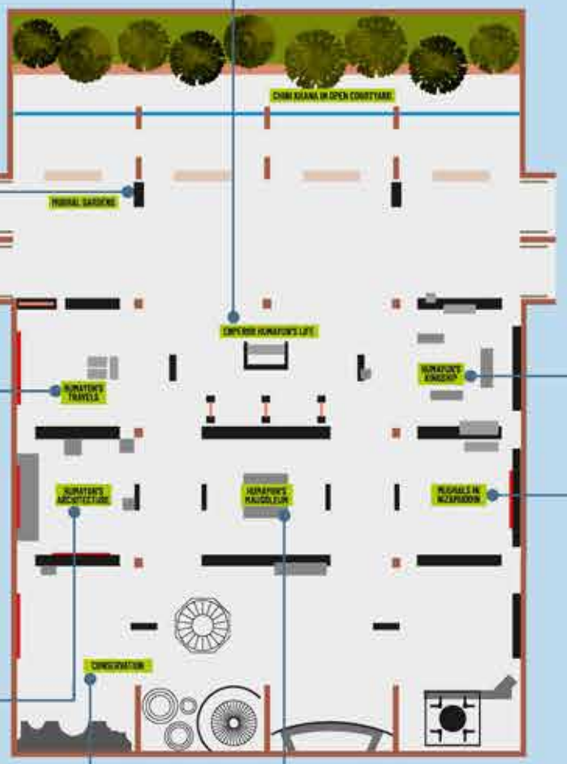



Scale Model of Sabz Burj

5 Conservation
Nizamuddin Area is home to over 300 monuments situated in Humayun's Tomb, Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin Basti and Delhi Golf Club, and over 75 monuments here have been conserved by Aga Khan Trust for Culture. Conservation works are, aimed to retain significance, authenticity and to sustain a truthful representation of the monument's original appearance and its setting, requiring multiple levels of interventions.

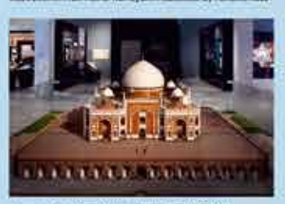

Drum of Humayun's Mausoleum,
Handcrafted reproduction by AKTC


Jamaat Khana Mosque
Finial, CE 1320s



6 Humayun's Mausoleum
Emperor Humayun's mausoleum, built to geometric perfection, is the first of the grand Mughal tombs. The synthesis of local architectural elements such as the funerary chhatris of the Rajputs, the gold finials from Hindu temples, were coupled with Central Asian planning, garden design and use of glazed tiles; all these came together to create the splendour of Mughal architectural style. The monumental scale achieved here under Akbar's patronage would dwarf all earlier mausoleums.


Illustration of Main Hall of Humayun's Mausoleum by Himanish Das


Humayun's Mausoleum, Architectural model. Scale 1:60


Stone jaali from
Humayun's mausoleum,
16th century

7 Mughals in Nizamuddin
Each of the 10 Mughal emperors retained a close association with The Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya through pilgrimage, architecture, or as their final resting place. Humayun chose to be buried here and his Mausoleum came to be known as the 'Dormitory of the Mughals' as over 150 Mughal royals were buried here.


Princess Jahanara's
gravestone,
Handcrafted reproduction
by AKTC


Portrait of Emperor Shahjahan
17th Century


Marble throne of
Bahadur Shah Zafar
Reign 1837-1857

8 Humayun's Kingship
Humayun introduced a new order based on the principles of astrology to his court and to the kingdom's administration. He established the Mughal school of miniature painting. He read widely and had a deep interest in the sciences and appointed many scientists, poets, astronomers, writers as nobles to his court.


Yuan Porcelain
14th century

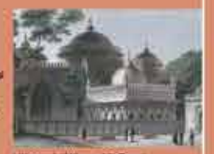

Mughal Armory
18th century


Emperor Humayun's
bronze sculptures

Gallery
Icons of Nizamuddin

The Nizamuddin Gallery, comprising 6 clusters, delves into the rich spritual and architectural heritage of the Nizamuddin area on the banks of River Yamuna, following the lives & works of some of India's best known cultural icons.

9 Nizamuddin Dargah Complex
Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, one of India's most revered Sufi saints, established his Khanqah, on the banks of the river Yamuna. His burial in Nizamuddin created a sacred landscape, where five centuries of tomb building happened during the Khilji, Tughlaq, Lodhi, and Mughal eras.

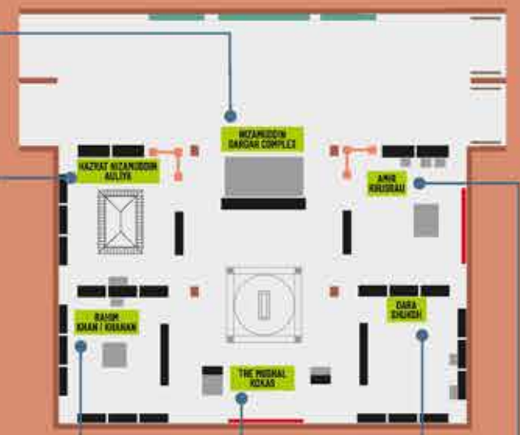

Lithograph of Nizamuddin Dargah
by William Daniell

10 Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya
Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, a disciple and successor of the Chishtiya mystic, Shaikh Farid-ud-Din Shakarganj, settled in Delhi on the banks of the river Yamuna. On his death, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya was buried in an open courtyard, where for the next 500 years Sultans and Emperors came to pay their respects, offerings, and erect mosques, gardens and serais in his memory.


Kashkul, inscribed with a
prayer to God. These are
used by Sufis to collect
alms and food.


Stone inscription of Hadith which are words
attributed to the Prophet. 11th Century

Replica of Mother of pearl
canopy at Nizamuddin
Dargah.



11 Rahim Khan-i-Khanan
Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan was one of the nine 'navratans' or gems of Emperor Akbar's court. He served as the Commander-in-Chief of Akbar and Jahangir's armies. He was a prolific poet writing in Persian, Sanskrit and Hindavi. He is today remembered for writing over 300 dohas. He commissioned the translation of the sacred Hindu texts, Mahabharat and Ramayana, from Sanskrit into Persian.


Built by Rahim as a mausoleum for his wife
Mahbanu, this building too served as an
inspiration for Taj Mahal


Painting of Rahim bowing to
Lord Vishnu, 18th century

12 The Mughal Kokas
Mirza Aziz Kokaltash, Emperor Akbar's foster brother, lies buried in a spectacular marble mausoleum in Nizamuddin Basti. The mausoleum, named for the sixty-four (chaunsath) monolithic marble pillars (khambha), is the earliest Mughal-era structure built exclusively with white marble, a prestigious stone.




Marble gravestone inscribed
with Ayat al Kursi from the
Holy Quran, 16th century


Sword of Khan-i-Jahan
Bahadur Zafar Jung Koka
17th century

13 Dara Shukoh
Dara Shukoh was emperor Shah Jahan's eldest son. The heir apparent to the Mughal throne was deeply immersed in Sufism and like his great-grandfather Akbar, a strong advocate of religious universalism. He saw commonality between beliefs of both Sufis and Hindu ascetics. He was killed by his brother Aurangzeb in the cruel war of succession and is buried in Humayun's mausoleum.


Portrait of Dara Shukoh,
17th century


Calligraphy by Dara Shukoh, the
favoured son of Emperor Shahjahan,
CE 17th Century

14 Khusrau
Hazrat Amir Khusrau 'Dehlavi', is ranked amongst the greatest Persian and Hindavi poets and an iconic figure in the cultural history of the Indian subcontinent. He served as poet, courtier, and historian to seven Sultans of Delhi, and his music & poetry continues to influence the political, cultural, and literary firmament to this day.


Shirin Khusrau, CE 1648-1686


Painting of Khusrau with
Nizamuddin Auliya

In the Museum

Entry Points



Vehicular Pathway



A dedicated pavilion was constructed near the existing Sunder Nursery ticket counter to streamline visitor entry and ticketing processes. The structure consists of RCC columns and slabs, clad in red sandstone to maintain visual continuity with the surrounding architecture. Turnstile systems were installed within the pavilion to facilitate efficient and organized visitor movement.



Stone Pavilion at Entry



An entry/exit pavilion was constructed at the Ramp-2 exit point of the museum. The pavilion features sandstone pillars, a reinforced cement concrete (RCC) roof, and Dholpur stone jaali panels along the sides. The design reflects traditional architectural elements, blending seamlessly with the historic context while serving as a functional transition space for visitors.



Ticket Counter @ Humayun's Tomb



A pre-fabricated ticket counter and coffee kiosk were installed within the sunken court at the Ramp-3 exit. The scope of work included structural fabrication such as metal framework, roof covering, and insulation, along with both exterior and interior cladding. Additional work included installation of doors, windows, electrical and plumbing systems, flooring, signage, and storage units. The design and color palette were carefully chosen to complement the historic character of the site and its proximity to Humayun's Tomb, ensuring contextual sensitivity.`



In the Museum

Exits & Ramps





Ramp leading to Humayun's Tomb

The museum also acts like a bridge connecting the two sites of Humayun's Tomb Complex and Sunder Nursery. The exit ramp to Humayun's Tomb is 33 metres wide and provides a gradual ramp. However, there were some Systemic lapses in both architectural design and site supervision, and to rectify those issues including inadequate systems for rainwater collection and disposal, a roof was installed over the exit ramp to Humayun's Tomb. It was provided with a tinted glass roof which protects from rain and sun, and creates a smooth and comfortable transition to the visitors. Resting on a frame of Mild steel (MS) columns and beams which were securely fixed onto the existing walls along the ramp and interconnected with MS beams to create a stable structural framework. Aluminium channels were then laid over the beams, forming the base for the installation of laminated toughened glass panels. This intervention provides weather protection while ensuring durability and minimal visual intrusion in the heritage setting.



(Left) The exit ramp from the musuem to Humayun's tomb complex opens up into this small cortyard which has a ticket counter, a kiosk serving food and beverages, and a quaint relaxation space for the visitors.





Fire Exit Staircase

A similar structural and protective intervention was carried out along the fire escape staircase leading from the museum to the terrace. MS columns were anchored to the existing walls and connected with MS beams to create a rigid framework. Aluminium channels were installed above the beams and finished with laminated toughened glass panels. Additionally, CNC-cut MS jaali panels, inspired by the intricate patterns of Humayun's Tomb, were installed beneath the glass covering. This design element not only enhances the aesthetic quality of the staircase but also creates a visual link with the architectural language of the historic monument.





Entrance Ramp

To ensure inclusive accessibility, a pedestrian ramp was constructed along the footpath near Ticket Counter-2. This intervention was specifically designed to accommodate specially abled visitors as well as elderly individuals, enabling easier and safer access to the site and reinforcing the commitment to universal accessibility.

NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE ARCHITECT – VIR MUELLER ARCHITECTS

The cumulative impact of Systemic lapses in both design development and site supervision by the architect has led to significant delays in building commissioning, elevated maintenance requirements, and unanticipated expenditure to rectify avoidable shortcomings. In addition to the costs of repairing defective work, the project has incurred further unplanned expenses to install supplementary infrastructure—such as additional drainage provisions, enhanced waterproofing systems, and remedial fire safety measures—to bring the building into basic compliance with statutory and operational standards. These issues have not only strained project budgets but also led to significant delays in obtaining completion and commissioning of the building.

- Inefficient Turnstile Circulation for Access to Museum Washrooms

The museum layout requires visitors to exit through the turnstiles and subsequently re-enter the controlled area to access the washrooms. This arrangement creates unnecessary movement through the entry and exit control system, resulting in additional turnstile counts and disruption to the intended flow of visitors. The absence of a more appropriately planned circulation arrangement has consequently affected the efficiency of visitor movement within the museum.

- Inadequate Provision for Office Staff within the Museum

The museum design did not provide designated office space for staff within the museum premises, reflecting inadequate consideration of the administrative and operational requirements essential for the effective functioning of the facility. The absence of dedicated workspaces has created difficulties in accommodating personnel responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination, monitoring, and administration of museum activities. It has also limited the availability of suitable areas for routine documentation, record-keeping, internal coordination, and other essential administrative functions that support museum operations. Such provisions should have been appropriately assessed and incorporated during the design development stage, taking into account the operational needs of the museum and the staff required to manage it. The failure to provide adequate office space has consequently affected the functional planning of the facility and necessitated the consideration of alternative arrangements to accommodate staff requirements. This shortcoming highlights a lack of comprehensive planning for the operational needs of the museum, resulting in avoidable constraints on staff efficiency and the smooth day-to-day administration of the facility.

- Inadequate Staircase Width and Unsafe Railing Design in the Facility Block

The clear tread width of the staircases located at the northern and southern corners of the Facility Block is less than the required 2.0 metres, as identified in the project assessment. This deficiency raises concerns regarding the adequacy of circulation capacity, particularly during periods of high occupancy and emergency evacuation. Furthermore, the solid metal sheets installed along the staircase railings have pointed and sharp edges, posing a potential safety hazard to individuals using the staircases. The design of these metal sheets also compromises the practical usability of the railing. These shortcomings reflect inadequate consideration of user safety and functional requirements in the staircase design.

- Absence of a Separate Entrance to the Basement Pump Room

The original design did not provide a separate entrance to the pump room in the basement, resulting in inadequate segregation between the pump room and the adjoining multipurpose room. To rectify this deficiency, portions of the existing walls had to be dismantled, and the entrance arrangement modified to establish separate access. This corrective work resulted in additional construction activity, associated expenditure, and disruption to the completed basement layout.

- Absence of Ducted Fresh-Air Provision in the Basement of Facility block

The basement design did not incorporate the required provision for a ducted fresh-air system. This omission necessitates additional planning and installation work to provide the basement with an appropriate fresh-air supply in accordance with applicable ventilation requirements. The need to introduce such provisions after the original design stage has resulted in additional coordination and potential remedial costs.

- Absence of Lift Lobby Pressurization in the Facility Block

The original design did not provide for pressurization of the lift lobby in the facility Block. To address this omission and meet the applicable fire and life safety requirements, a pressurization fan was installed at the terrace level to serve the lift lobby. The requirement for supplementary equipment and associated installation works represents an additional intervention that could have been incorporated into the original design and building services coordination.

- Inadequate Planning and Coordination of Café Kitchen Services above the Auditorium

The architect's inadequate planning and coordination of the café kitchen located on the ground floor directly above the basement auditorium resulted in significant functional issues and avoidable additional expenditure for the client. The plumbing services for the kitchen were initially routed along the auditorium ceiling, without adequately considering the acoustic sensitivity of the space below, the risk of future water leakage, or the accessibility of the pipework for inspection, maintenance, and repairs. This arrangement created concerns regarding the transmission of noise from the kitchen and its plumbing systems into the auditorium, compromising the acoustic environment required for the smooth conduct of presentations, performances, meetings, and other events. Furthermore, the routing of water supply and drainage lines above the auditorium introduced the risk of damage to the ceiling finishes, acoustic installations, and other interior infrastructure in the event of leakage, while making future maintenance and repair work difficult and potentially disruptive. These issues arose from inadequate coordination of the architectural layout and building services at the design stage. Consequently, the client had to undertake substantial rework and rerouting of the plumbing services to make the café kitchen operational. In addition, acoustic cladding was installed in the kitchen at additional expense to minimize noise transmission and enable the auditorium to function effectively without undue acoustic disturbance. These corrective interventions required additional coordination, construction work, time, and financial resources that could have been avoided through appropriate planning and technical coordination by the architect. The need for the client to undertake these remedial measures highlights the shortcomings in the original design and has resulted in unplanned expenditure, additional implementation effort, and increased long-term maintenance considerations for the facility.



Unsafe Railing Design in the Facility Block



Inadequate Planning and Coordination of Café Kitchen

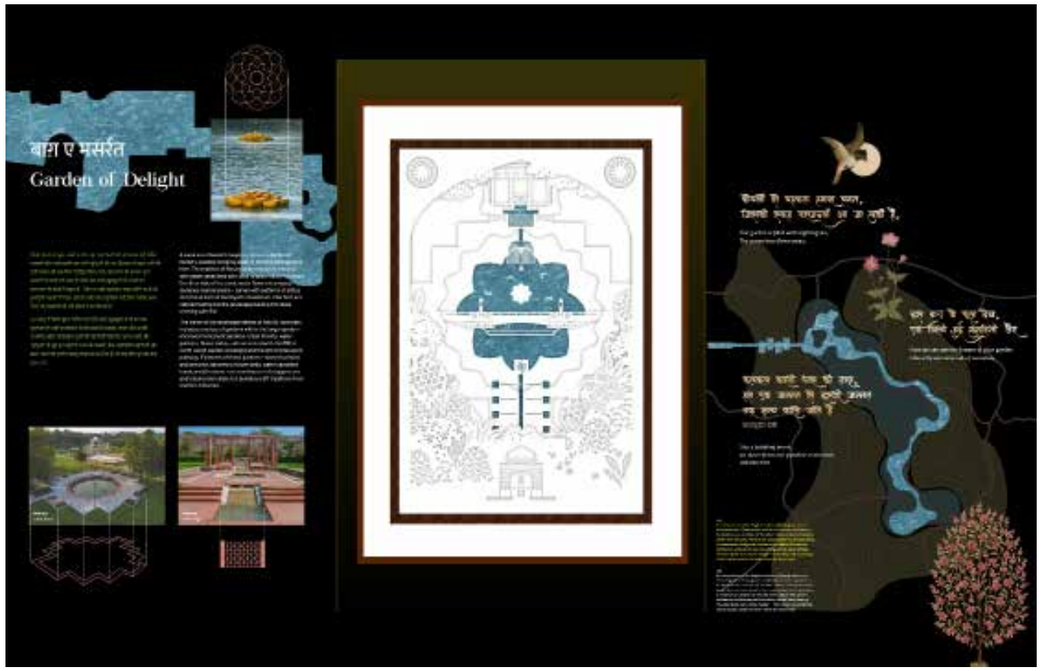


2. Sunder Nursery Gallery

(Above) Inspired from the landscape design elements from Sunder Nursery, the gallery has specialized artworks.

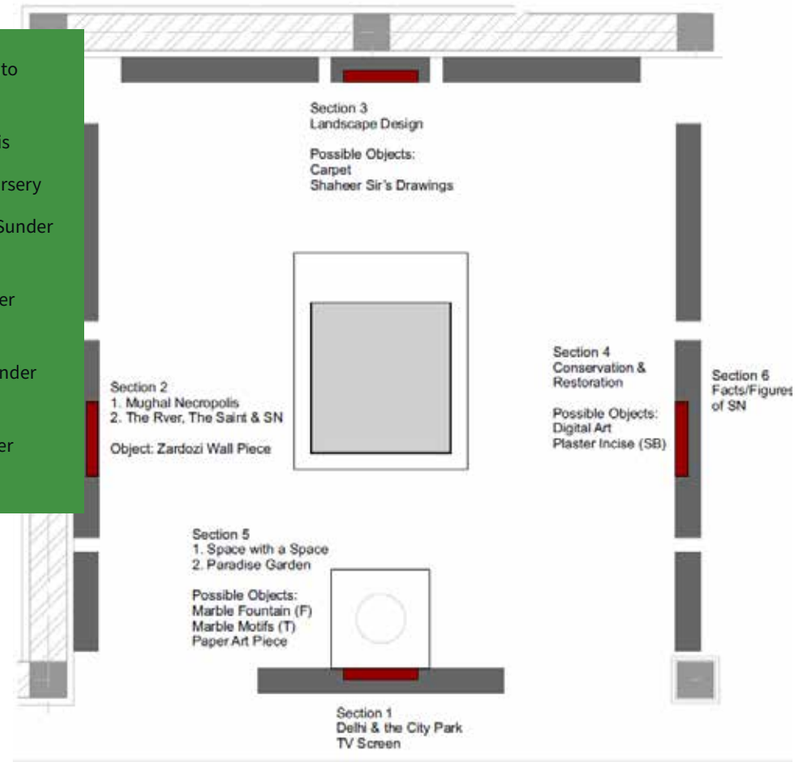
Following a decade-long conservation and landscape developement works in Sunder Nursery, the 90-acre park has now developed into one of Delhi's key attraction. With over 20 heritage structures situated here, out of which six are part of expanded UNESCO World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb Complex, the park is home to a diverse flora and fauna, and several formal gardens.

One of the objectives of the museum is to provide the visitors a seamless connection between Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery. The permanent galleries in the museum ends at the exit gallery which connects these two sites through wide-easy ramps. The Sunder Nursery gallery is situated on the left side of the Museum exit leading the visitors to the the Park through a ramped exit. The gallery is aimed at providing a glimpse and understanding on the history, architecture, and ecological assets of Sunder Nursery.



The panels are classified into following categories:

- The Mughal Necropolis
- Gardens of Sunder Nursery
- Landscape Design of Sunder Nursery
- Conservation of Sunder Nursery Monuments
- Flora and Fauna of Sunder Nursery
- Management of Sunder Nursery





THE MUSEUM

3. Crafts Shop

The shop was inaugurated by Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture on 15th September 2025 in the presence of senior officers from the Archaeological Survey of India.

The Museum Crafts Shop was created to showcase the traditional crafts used in restoring monuments of Nizamuddin. It offers exquisite handcrafted products that bring these techniques to life. The products feature a range of traditional crafts and techniques, including: Stone carving, Pietra dura (stone inlay), Glazed tile work, Wood carving, Mother-of-pearl inlay with lacquer, Aari embroidery, Sanjhi paper-cutting, amongst others.
Every item is hand-crafted, unique, making each piece truly one-of-a-kind, and carries a part of Nizamuddin's legacy.



ACTION TAKEN:

- The museum shop is located at the end of the permanent galleries of the Humayun's Tomb Site Museum. The shop is aimed at being an eminent outreach platform for the museum and the crafts traditions, especially seen in Nizamuddin Area's monuments using both the craft traditions and patterns and motifs seen here.
- The shop was inaugurated by Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture on 15th September 2025 in the presence of senior officers from the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Designed by the New Black Design, the shop has modular display design and follows the visual vocabulary of the Museum – using black metal sheets for shelving, drawers, and cupboards.
- The cases were designed to effectively showcase objects while ensuring their safety and preservation, contributing to an enhanced retail and interpretive experience for visitors. The shop frontage was designed a combination clear glazing with sliding doors made out of glass to increase visibility. The display shelves unit and cabinets were made out of HDHMR board finished with laminate and MS structure inside for support. Units were made for displaying jewelry, postcards, posters, stationery items, Sanjhi art, books and stone craft pieces.
- Expanding on the craft traditions of Nizamuddin Area and also showcased in the Museum, the shop has developed products which reflect this philosophy. The shop developed products from crafts like pietra dura craft – inspired from Jahanara's gravestone in Nizamuddin Dargah complex; mother-of-pearl inspired from the wooden canopy of Nizamuddin Dargah; sandstone and marble carvings; wooden jaalis/lattice screen; aari embroidery and Sanjhi craft products from Insha e Noor group amongst others.





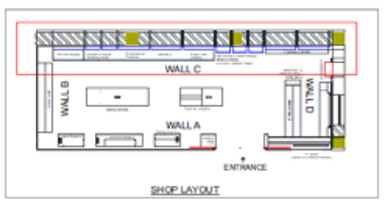
Design & Display

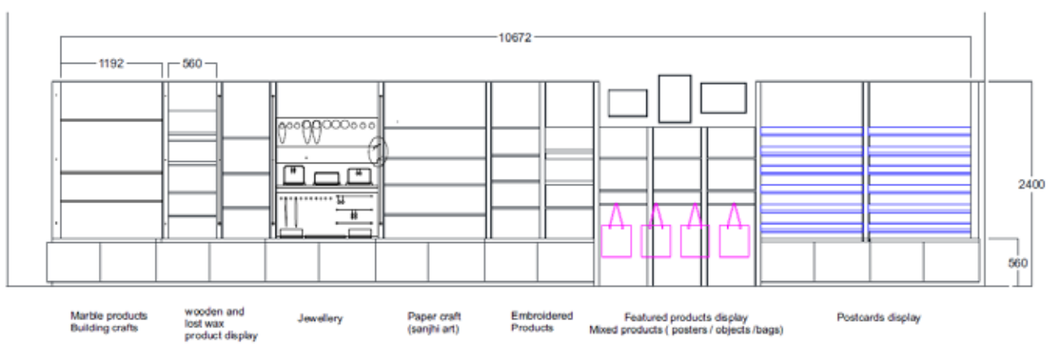
Fabrication and installation of display cases were undertaken for the museum shop. These cases were designed to effectively showcase objects while ensuring their safety and preservation, contributing to an enhanced retail and interpretive experience for visitors. The shop frontage was designed a combination clear glazing with sliding doors made out of glass to increase visibility. The display shelves unit and cabinets were made out of HDHMR board finished with laminate and MS structure inside for support. Units were made for displaying jewelry, postcards, posters, stationery items, Sanjhi art, books and stone craft pieces.



MUSEUM SHOP - wall C













Mother of Pearl

Pietra Dura



Building Craft Products









Stationary

Miniature Painting





Insha-e-Noor













Wooden Craft

Miscellaneous







THE MUSEUM

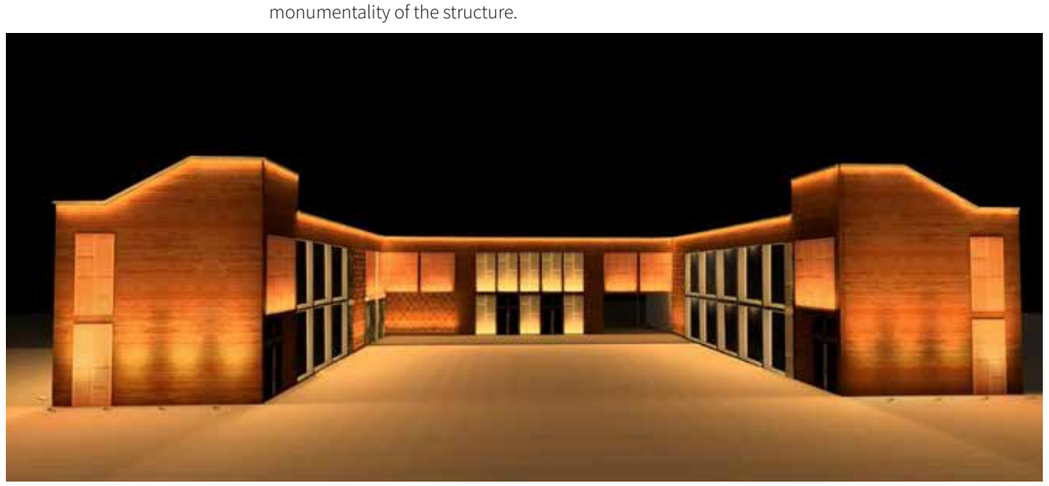
4. Museum Courtyard

Located at the Entrance zone of Humayun's Tomb Complex & Sunder Nursery Park, the Museum opened in August 2024. While the Museum block serves as main entrance to both Humayun's Tomb complex & Sunder Nursery city park, the Museum Courtyard houses the 96-seater Auditorium, Temporary/traveling exhibition galleries, and spaces around the grand courtyard in which cafes and restaurant were proposed.

Humayun's Tomb is open till 9 pm, and Sunder Nursery till 10 pm. Now with the cafés and restaurant open till 11 pm, with night time views of these sites, the Museum holds a prominent position in the historic precinct offering a meaningful and culturally rich visitor experience.

Façade Lighting

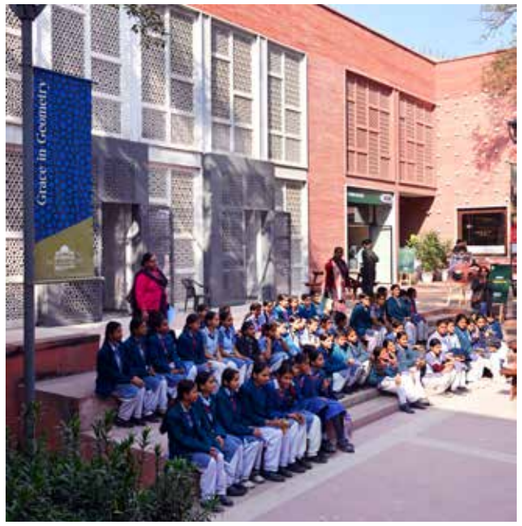
External façade lighting was installed on the administrative building with a design approach that respects the historic character of the site. The lighting scheme subtly highlights the red sandstone and marble surfaces, enhancing the architectural features without overpowering the monumentality of the structure.



Cafes & Restaurant

Since the museum opening in 2024, there has been a marked increase in the number of schools visiting Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery.

The Cafes and Restaurant at the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum focus on high-quality cuisine, environmental sustainability, and enhancing the aesthetic and visitor experience.





ACTION TAKEN:

- Following the inauguration of the permanent exhibition in the Gallery block, work began in 2025 for creating vibrant F&B spaces in the Museum.
- **Market Study**
  In 2017, E&Y has conducted a study on financial feasibility of Sunder Nursery and HTWHSM. However, 8 years old data is not a very reliable source to consider. An in-house team comprising an expert M&E officer has conducted an independent study on neighboring markets, having similar space and target visitors. The calculation of the reserve price for these tender documents was derived from this study.
- **Engagement of Food & Beverage Expert**
  To commence the process of listing potential vendors, Ms. Soity Banerjee, an experienced individual and subject-matter expert in the Food & Beverage (F&B) industry, was engaged to provide guidance. For over 10 years, Soity has been the Project Editor at Outlook Responsible Tourism and an independent sustainable tourism strategist. Her role included advising on industry standards, identifying potential vendors and recommending operational best practices for the space.
- **Develop Information Brochure and connect with Potential vendors**
  A comprehensive Information Brochure was created to provide potential vendors with all necessary details, including space specifications, facilities available and expectations from operators. This brochure was used during in-person site visits and shared digitally.
- The **landscape design** for the courtyard is such that it encourages people to use outdoor space throughout the day for different activities. In the evening same area can be used as the spill over space for the restaurants on ground floor. Two grand banyan trees incorporated in design significantly enhance the ambience of this open space.





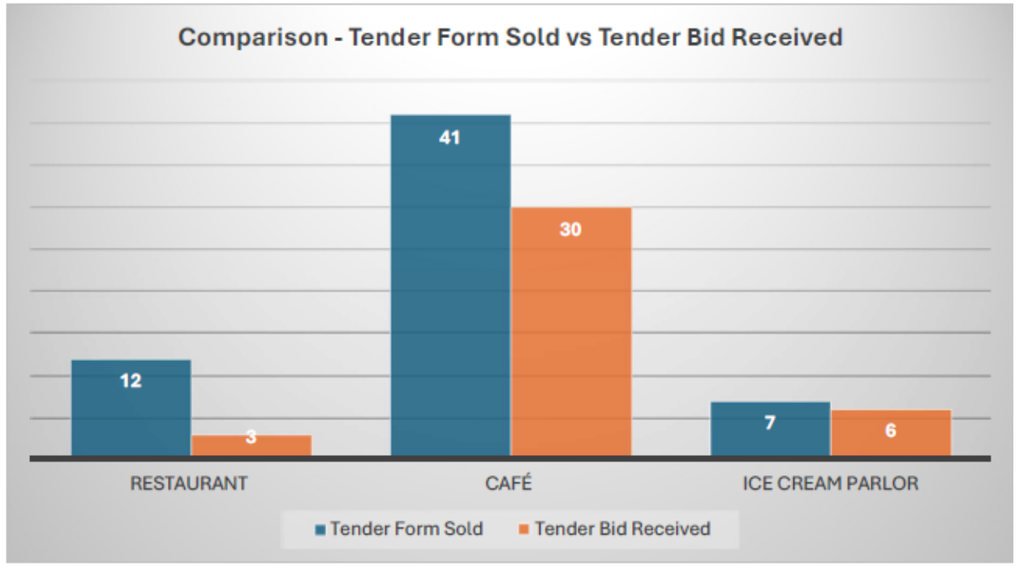
Pre-Bid Meetings with all interested applicants who purchased and submitted the tender documents

Process followed for allotment of Food & Beverage Spaces at Museum:

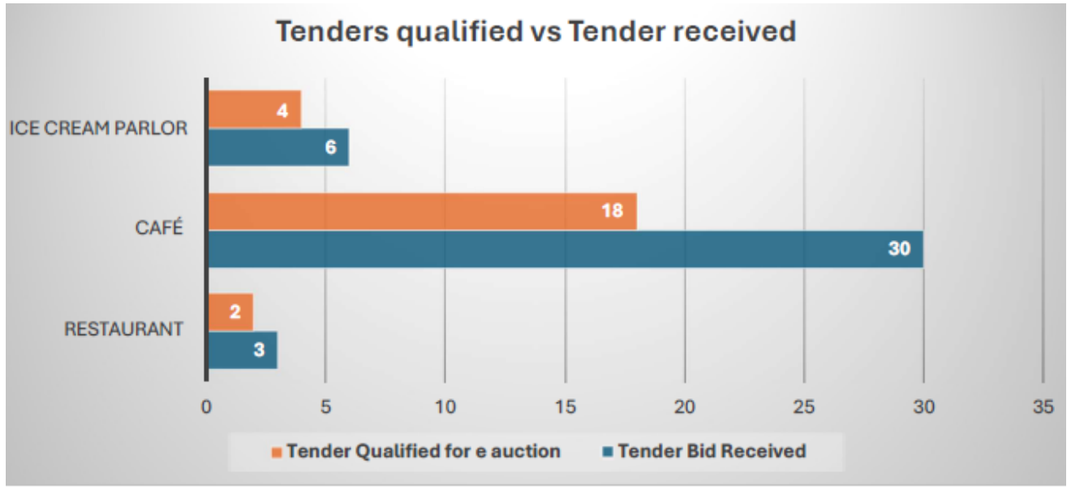
- Following the opening of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum to the public in 2024, the Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust (GSNMT) initiated the process of leasing the designated Food & Beverage (F&B) spaces to support the increased operational expenditure of Sunder Nursery, the Museum and the open spaces of Humayun's Tomb.
- The process was undertaken through a structured and competitive tendering mechanism. An experienced F&B sector expert was engaged to advise on industry standards, identify potential operators and recommend appropriate operational practices. An information brochure detailing the available spaces, facilities and expectations was prepared and shared with prospective operators.
- To establish appropriate reserve prices, GSNMT undertook an independent market study of comparable locations and visitor-oriented facilities, rather than relying solely on the older financial feasibility study conducted in 2017. Legal expertise was also engaged for the preparation of the tender documents covering three categories: **Restaurant, Café and Ice Cream Parlour/Sweet Shop.**
- The **Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** was published in the Times of India and Navbharat Times on 9 May 2025 and was simultaneously made available through the Sunder Nursery's website and social media platforms. The tender followed a **two-stage process**, comprising technical evaluation followed by financial bidding through e-auction. A total of **60 tender forms were issued, and 39 bids were received**. Pre-bid meetings were also conducted to address applicants' queries and ensure clarity regarding the tender process.
- The technical bids were evaluated by a constituted selection committee against predefined eligibility criteria carrying a total of 100 points. A minimum qualifying threshold of **70 points** was established. Individual evaluation sheets were consolidated and averaged, following which eligible bidders were shortlisted for participation in the e-auction.

The schedule bid submission dates were 02 June 2025 to 04 June 2025 (5pm).

A total of **39 bids** were received from all categories.



- The financial stage was conducted through an independent e-auction agency across **five lots—one Restaurant, three Cafés and one Ice Cream Parlour/Sweet Shop.** A total of **19 qualified bidders** participated in the e-auction. The auction was monitored by a designated committee comprising representatives from relevant government, professional and institutional bodies, ensuring oversight of the process.
- Following completion of the technical evaluation and e-auction, **five operators were selected for the respective F&B spaces**. The successful operators were subsequently issued formal communications, required to deposit the stipulated security amount, and provided defined fit-out periods prior to commencement of operations. Lease documentation was prepared with legal assistance, completing the allotment process.



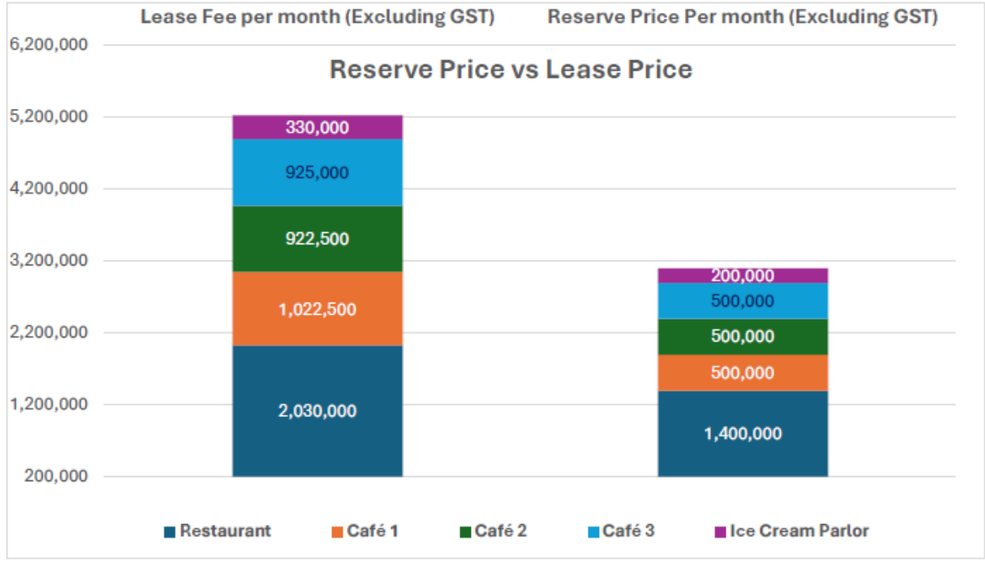
summary note with the signature of the selection committee for each category is enclosed as **Annexure A**



The opening and marking of the technical bid in presence of the selection committee plus the procurement committee.



The monitoring of the e-auction / financial bid of successful qualifiers from the Technical Bid in the presence of the Monitoring committee plus the procurement committee.



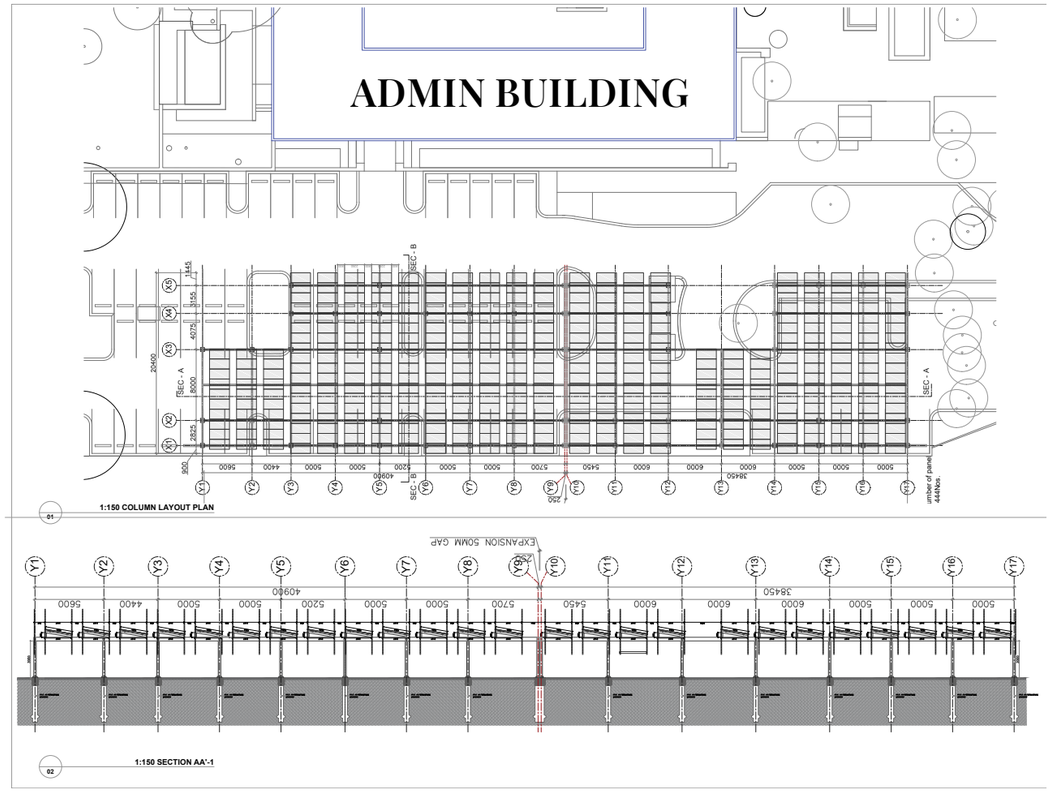
Setting up of Solar Plant in Museum parking

Foundation works were completed for the installation of a solar power plant at the car parking area of the museum. The proposed system includes 405 solar panels with an estimated power generation capacity of approximately 220 kW. The generated energy will be utilized to support the museum and facility block operations. The structural system comprises a combination of pile foundations below ground and steel columns and beams above ground, ensuring stability and efficiency in supporting the solar infrastructure. The installation of MS structure above ground and solar panels would be taken up early next year.









Acoustic Cladding in Kitchen

Acoustic cladding was installed on the floors and internal walls of the kitchen located within the café and restaurant in the facility block. This intervention was essential to prevent sound transmission to the auditorium situated below. Based on the acoustic consultant's design, a 5 mm thick TECSOUND 100 sheet was applied over an 8 mm thick cement board base, which was securely fixed to the shaft walls and floor using headless screws and adhesive at regular intervals. This system ensures durability while significantly reducing noise transmission.



Effluent Treatment Plant

An Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) with a capacity of 12 KLD was supplied and installed behind the facility block. The system was designed to process wastewater generated from three café units, a dessert shop on the ground floor, and a restaurant on the first floor. The treated water is suitable for reuse in horticultural activities, contributing to sustainable water management practices at the site.





THE MUSEUM

5. International Exhibitions

Shared Stories - a traveling at Humayun's Tomb Museum's temporary galley. The exhibiton showcased over 100 objects from the collection of five museums in Rome displaying artefacts from Greeco-Roman to the Maurya and the Kushan, from the Byzantine to the Gupta, the Sassanids to the Mughals.

The Museum has several gallery spaces which are aimed at housing temporary/traveling exhibitions creating a dynamic space dedicated to presenting changing exhibitions that foster dialogue between history, art, culture, and contemporary ideas. Complementing the Museum's permanent galleries, these flexible venues hosts collaborations with museums, cultural institutions, artists, and researchers from India and around the world.

Through rotating exhibitions, visitors encounter rare artefacts, innovative interpretations, contemporary artistic practices, and diverse cultural narratives that extend beyond the story of Humayun's Tomb. Each exhibition offers a fresh perspective, encouraging exploration, reflection, and meaningful engagement with our shared heritage.

Designed as a platform for cultural exchange, the galleries ensures that every visit to the Museum offers new discoveries, making the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum a living institution where the past continually inspires the present and the future.

Since 2024, the Museum has collaborated with several institutions to host artefacts, antiquities and collections from museums globally.

Mosaico:
Italian Code of a Timeless Art

This multimedia exhibition was organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum. Created by Magister Art, the exhibition traced 2,000 years of mosaic craftsmanship across seven key Italian sites including Rome, Ravenna, and Palermo, blending digital storytelling with historical works.

The exhibition was inaugurated on 12 April 2025 by Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, and remained on display until 30 August 2025. In addition to the exhibition space, the 100-seat auditorium at Humayun's Tomb was made available for related talks, workshops, and film screenings.









SONGLINES:
TRACKING THE SEVEN SISTERS
Collection from the Australian National Museum

This exhibition of pieces by indigenous artists from Australia with collection from the **National Museum of Australia was presented in collaboration with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art** at the Humayun's Tomb Museum. The exhibition ran from November 22, 2025, to March 15, 2026.

The exhibition featured:

• The Narrative: An Indigenous Australian creation saga tracing the journey of the Seven Sisters fleeing an evil sorcerer named Wati Nyiru across the Western and Central deserts.

• Artworks & Displays: **Nearly 300 pieces, including paintings, ceramics, tjanpi fiber sculptures, immersive projections, audio soundscapes, and a digital dome (DomeLab)**









"To call such a showcase powerful and deeply immersive feels similarly reductive as calling the digitalisation of it profound, but there is something indescribably extraordinary in the pulsating, almost syncopated paintings where land carries traces of the Sisters' sleeping forms, their footsteps and their flight from the snake, whose figure also dominates some of the canvases. The intention, perhaps, is to underscore the vital notion that art here is not as a commodity or object, but as a way of being, as a medium of transcendence, of connecting across time, place and creating kinships that tie us to the lands we walk every day."

– STIR World

December 08, 2025


The Indian EXPRESS

NEWS TODAY

The centuries-old tale of the seven sisters to be retold at Humayun's Tomb

Among the highlights of the travelling exhibition will be a high resolution immersive

Written by: Vandana Kalra

3 min read

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Traditional owners of Cave Hill (Seven Sisters) 2017 by Brenda Douglas, Tjala Arts, National Museum of Australia (Photo: Brenda Douglas)

One of Australia's best-known lore stories or songlines, the tale of the Seven Sisters who fled along the ancestral route — thousands of miles.

"Until March 15, 2026, Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum will be a portal to Australia's desert landscapes and indigenous traditions, as nearly 300 works of art, dance, and multimedia bring the epic journey of the Seven Sisters to life for Indian audiences."

– The Hindu

"At the exhibition, visitors encounter life-sized, hand-woven fibre sculptures arranged in clusters, retelling the tale of the sisters. The sorcerer Wati Nyiru appears too — sculpted into many of the installations, lurking, watching and following them.

In one of the installations, large sculptures of the sisters appear suspended in mid-air. Below them lie the worldly, material possessions they leave behind — represented through shells, sticks, and insects crafted from fabric."

– The New Indian Express


Australian Aboriginal saga opens at Humayun's Tomb Museum

Nia Sharma / TNN / Updated: Nov 24, 2023, 19:07 IST

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AA

A touring exhibition brings the ancient creation story Songlines: Tracking The Seven Sisters to the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum. "It is not just an exhibition, it is a living culture," said Dr Jilda Andrews, Deputy Director (First Nations) at the National Museum of Australia, during the opening. The Australian High Commission hosted the launch on Friday. The international exhibition has been created by the National Museum of Australia, with the continued guidance and support of the Aboriginal elders and knowledge keepers who are custodians of this story.

A touring exhibition brings the ancient creation story Songlines: Tracking The Seven Sisters to the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Sit...

Shared Stories:
An Art Journey Across Civilisations

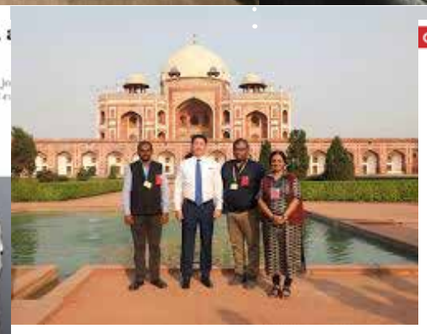
Presented in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture New Delhi, MUCIV – Museo delle Civiltà, and Musei in Comune Roma, in association with the Humayun's Tomb Museum. The exhibition was curated by Laura Giuliano, archaeologist and curator at MUCIV, and conceived by Andrea Anastasio, Director of the Italian Institute of Culture in New Delhi.

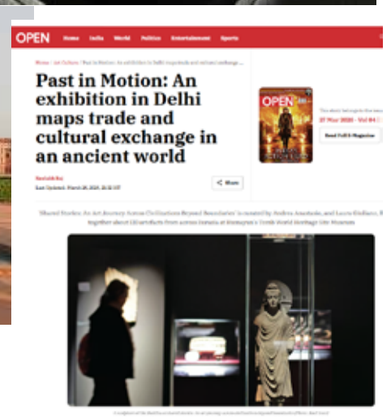
The exhibition draws from Rome's Asian Collection to trace centuries of cultural exchange — spanning the Greco-Roman, Maurya, Kushan, Byzantine, Gupta, Sassanid, and Mughal periods. Through rare artefacts of significant historical and artistic value, it presents the long history of contact and dialogue between civilisations.

In addition to the exhibition space, the auditorium at Humayun's Tomb and venues at Sunder Nursery were made available for related workshops and programmes.




From an Afghan Durga to Roman birds, a world without borders




Past in Motion: An exhibition in Delhi maps trade and cultural exchange in an ancient world



"... museums have a profound role to play. Think of the museum institution as a public intellectual. It has an intellectual duty to remind people about civilisational connectedness amid all the 'clash of civilisations' talk. To that end, museums are a global public good in turbulent times."
–
Rama Lakshmi for The Print















"From an Afghan Durga to Roman birds, a new exhibition maps a world without borders.
A new exhibition at Delhi's Humayun's Tomb Museum, 'Shared Stories: An Art Journey Across Civilizations Beyond Boundaries',challenges modern divisions by showcasing the interconnectedness of ancient cultures."
- The Week

"Borders may divide the modern world, but history tells a deeper story. "Shared stories: An art journey across civilisations beyond boundaries", an ongoing exhibition at Humayun's Tomb Museum in New Delhi, reveals how cultures across Eurasia were shaped not by isolation, but by centuries of movement, exchange and mutual influence."
- The Tribune (India)



6. Sanskriti Gallery

(Above) Terracotta figures as depicted in the Shrine of Aiyanar, Tamil Nadu. These were made here in 2026, fired in pieces and subsequently assembled after firing in a kiln. Placed at the entrance to the Everyday Objects & Indian Textiles gallery, these terracotta sculptures are a vital visitor attraction in the Museum Courtyard.

Courtesy:

कला यस्मिन् प्रतिष्ठिता :
इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

The Sanskriti Museum collection of over 2000 artefacts and 500 textiles dating from the 18th century onwards was established by Shri O P Jain, Founder Sanskriti – collecting since the late 1970's. For four decades, the artefacts have been on display at Sanskiriti Kendra, Anandgram on the Mehrauli – Gurgaon Road.

The Museum of Everyday Art includes artefacts that were used for daily use in Indian households till only a few decades ago. Children's Toys, beautiful writing instruments, implements of trade & farming, exquisite locks, hand crafted hukkah's & nut crackers, a wide selection of the famous Indian Lota, Kitchen implements and vessels, a diverse range of beauty care products used by women, numerous boxes and lamps, artefacts of use in religious ritual and home shrines, amongst other household objects that today remind us of a glorious past and the sense of aesthetics of our ancestors.

संस्कृति
SANSKRITI
EVERYDAY ART &
INDIAN TEXTILES

Indian textiles from across the country can be seen, including Kantha & Jamdani from Bengal; gold Zari's from Benaras and Kanchipuram; Ikat's from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa; Phulkari from Punjab; Embroideries from Kutch & Saurashtra in Gujarat; Shawls from Kashmir; Bandhani's from Rajasthan and Jain temple hangings from Rajasthan & Gujarat, amongst others. With 30% of textiles on display, these will be the subject of temporary exhibitions at the Humayun's Tomb Museum.

In 2023, the Sanskriti Board of Trustees gifted this invaluable collection to the nation through the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). Following cleaning of the artefacts and reframing of the conserved textiles, IGNCA proposed the display at an exclusive gallery of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum for an initial period of 5 years during which conservation works on the collection will continue. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has implemented the display & showcases and together with the permanent exhibition of the museum shall be responsible for day-to-day management. IGNCA & AKTC will collaborate to organize research, dissemination, and public programming focused on the Sanskriti Museum collections.

To connect the display at the Humayun's Tomb Museum with their original display at Sanskriti Kendra, in the Museum courtyard there will be a display of monumental clay horses and elephants from the Ayyanar terracotta traditions from Tamil Nadu - also a gift of the Sanskriti Foundation.

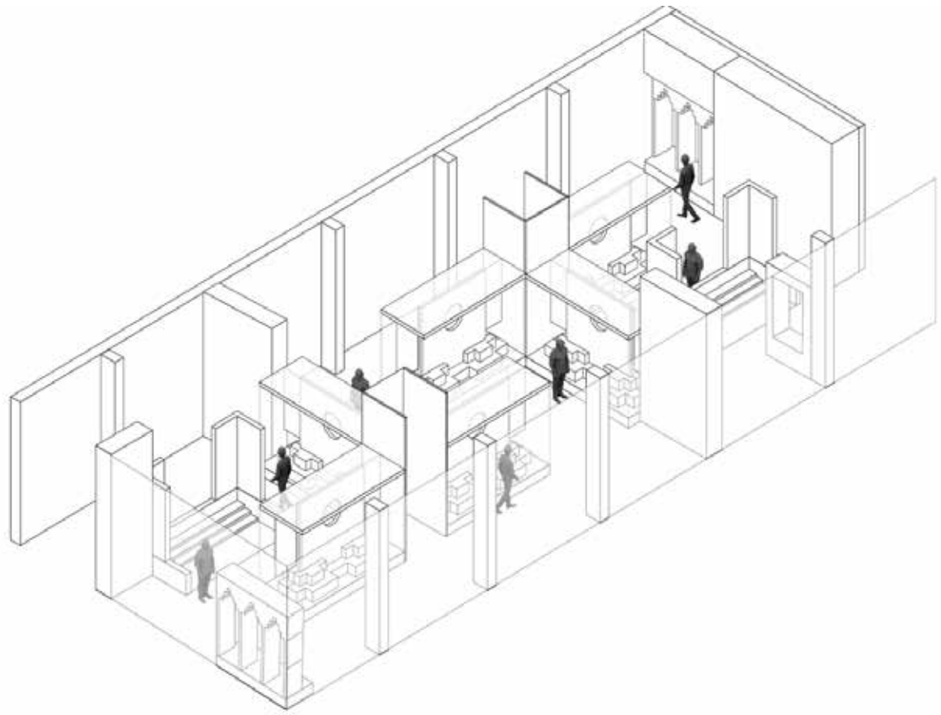
The Sanskriti Museum gallery is expected to be open to the public from July - August 2026 with a seperate museum ticket of Rs 50/-.

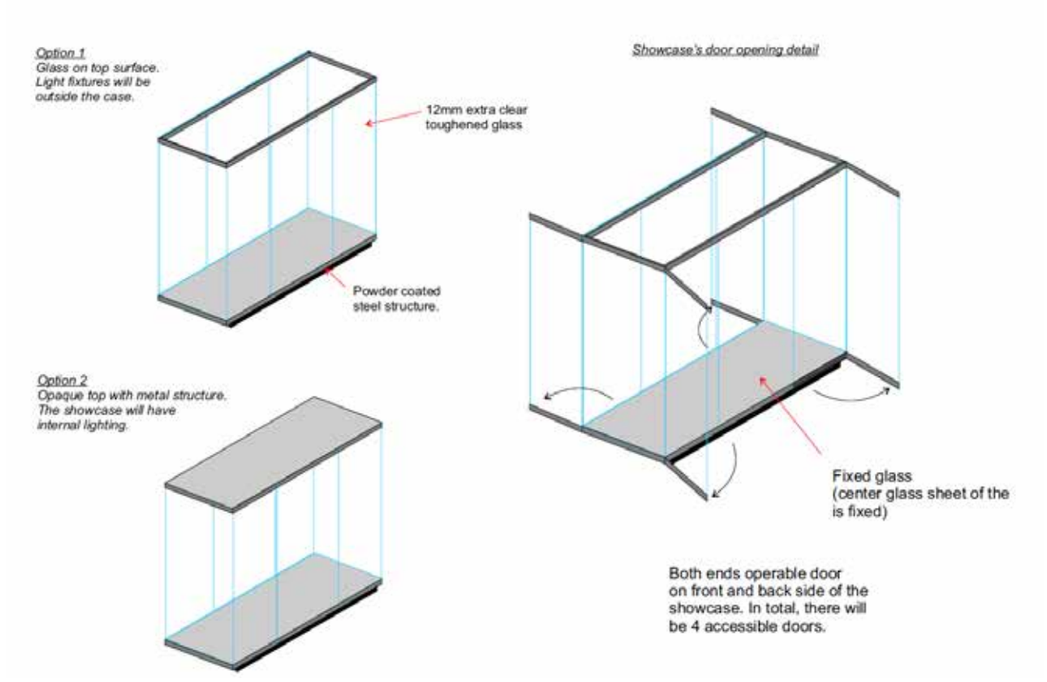














Indian Textiles

The collection houses over 500 textile pieces from India which showcases traditional crafts of Brocades, Balucharis, Kantha, Ikat, Bandhani, Patola, Phulkari, Kalamkari amongst others. The pieces have been collected from all over India ranging from Saurashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal etc. Following a keen assesment, a team of conservators are working on the conservation of the textile pieces, which will then be framed for display.

Everyday Objects

The gallery will showcase objects from everyday life which were in prevlant use till the early 20th century in daily household. The objects in this collections are from all walks of life like childhood toys, writing equipments, work implements, lotas/spouted vessels, kitchen equipments, beauty objects used by women, various lamps, and religious icons. The objects are presently undergoing conservation and assesed for selection.



A wall-hung lamp made in Brass with intricate motifs



A 19th century brass tiger mask from Karnataka



A traditional wooden butter churner



A brass hukkah with peacock motif



Traditional kitchen tool to chop leafy vegetables



A wooden kashkul with a gaumukh/ cow-mouthed spout



THE MUSEUM

7. Visitors Engagement

"Insofar as civilisations manifest and express themselves through their art, museums have an essential role to play in teaching understanding, respect, and appreciation. They ensure that whole populations are given fresh opportunities to make contact with each other, using new, modern methods imaginatively and intelligently to bring about truly global communication."
His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV

Since its opening in 2024, the Museum has seen a consistent rise in its visitor number. A wide range of visitors from all walks of life have visited the museum.

Benches in the Galleries

To improve visitor experience and comfort, red sandstone benches were designed, fabricated, and installed within the main gallery of the museum. The choice of red sandstone ensures visual harmony with the surrounding heritage structures while providing durable and functional seating for visitors.



Photogrammetry of Objects

Photogrammetry is the science of making measurements and creating 3D models from overlapping photographs. Over 100 objects from the museum were photographed in high detail to present an up-close views to the antiquities behind the glass showcases. The exit ramp leading to the Humayun's Tomb has a large projection screen showcasing the objects displayed in the museum at 4K resolution. Also targetted at the visitors entering the Museum from Humayun's Tomb side, this display also orients them to the collection inside the museum.



Museum walks

There are trained heritage volunteers offering guided museum walks on three slots daily - 11.00 am, 1.00 pm, and 4.00 pm. Visitors can book these walks at the Museum's ticket counters. Individuals, large groups, and insitutions like schools and colleges can easily book these walks by coming directly to the museum or online by writing to: info@htmuseum.org

Total Number of visitors in Museum since August

4,12,498



Global Leaders

Since 2024, the AKTC team have walked through political leaders both nationally and globally. Through these walks, the team stresses upon the messages of pluralism and strengths of Indian craftsmanship.











Historians

Guided by eminent Mughal historian, Prf. Ebba Koch, the Humayun's Tomb Museum sheds new lights on undiscovered aspects of Emperor Humayun's life. This has also been shared through a well-illustrated publication - The Planetary King. Several well-known historians like Prof. Romila Thapar, Prof. Naman Ahuja have visited the museum and have indulged in sholarly discourses related to the heritage of Nizamuddin.



Since 2024, the AKTC team have walked through political leaders both nationally and globally. Through these walks, the team stresses upon the messages of pluralism and strengths of Indian craftsmanship.









Schools & Colleges

The team has guided several museum walks for the schools and colleges. The museum being on the threshold of Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery, proves to be at a vital point before they start their visit to either of the two sites of this historic precinct. A guided walk provides the students a much-needed and helpful orientation to understand and appreciate the tangible and intangible heritage of nizamuddin Area.

Cultural Institutions

The Museum Team has walked through various cultural insitutions like Archaeological Survey of India, UK's Courtald Institute, Delegation from the United Nations country Team of Bhutan, World Economic Forum delegation, Group of IAS offcers and Senior Officers from Ministry of Tourism, and Group of members from DIALOG which includes Pulitzer winners, Nobel laureates, top policymakers, university Deans, CEOs of major VC funds, and tech company founders.









Community Members

Finally, the most important aspect for a successful running of any cultural institution is the keen interest of the community in it. The Museum team has organized several walks for the community of Nizamuddin basti to familiarize them with the significance of their lived heritage and evoke a sense of awe with an objective of long-term sustainability of their heritage.





Government Officials

Several government officials have been walked through the museum where while explaining the content of the museum, the team shares with them the management and maintenance issues of this museum which has been created in Public - Private Partnership model. These knowledge sharing with officials leads to fruitful conversation aimed at creating more such efforts in India.







Name of Visitor	Date
Global Encounters Expedition Camps Team	3-Jan-25
Mr Pavan Kapoor, IFS, Deputy National Security Advisor in the National Security Council Secretariat	5-Jan-25
Mr Sanjay Verma, IFS (Retd.), Member UPSC Ms Vidisha Maitra, OSD, Prsident's Secretariat	5-Jan-25
Mr Danish Ashraf, IAS Special Secretary, M/o Health and Family Welfare Department	13-Jan-25
Hon'ble Mr Wong Hon Wai, State Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy and senior officers from Penang	14-Jan-25
Mr Alim Hirani, Region Head, South Asia Pacific (A2) and team from HILTI	14-Jan-25
Dr Ilayaraja T (IAS), Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Bhopal	20-Jan-25
Mr Omar Khan, an Indus enthusiast	20-Jan-25
Delegation from the United Nations country Team of Bhutan	28-Jan-25
Group of Senior Finance team from HILTI	29-Jan-25
Mr Mark Watson, Taxonomy and Macroecology Lead, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	30-Jan-25
Group of senior HR team from Indigo	5-Feb-25
Group of esteemed patrons from UK's Courtald Institute	5-Feb-25
His Excellency Mr Antonio Bartoliand, Italian Ambassador Mr. Andrea Anastasio, Director Istituto Italiano di Cultura	6-Feb-25
Ms Revathy Iyer, Director, Central Board, RBI Shri Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India Shri Rohit Jain, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India Shri P Vasudevan, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India	8-Feb-25
Young Global Leaders, World Economic Forum delegation	11-Feb-25
Ms K Lakshmi, Director, D/o Heritage Government of Telangana	15-Feb-25
Mr Vishal Saluja, Saluja Trust	18-Feb-25
Dr Aaron Bryant, Museum Curator, Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture	20-Feb-25
Group of IAS offcers and senior Officers from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India	21-Feb-25
Hon'ble Minister of Tourism of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr Umid Shadiev, and Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India H.E. Mr Sardor Rustambaev	21-Feb-25
Mr Anil Rai Gupta, Managing Director, Havells and Mr Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Aarin Capital, Chairman of Manipal Global Education	22-Feb-25
Ms Alison Barrett, Country Director of the British Council Ms Shreela Ghosh, Secretary, Charles Wallace India Trust	22-Feb-25
Ms Susan Macdonald, Head of Buildings and Sites, Getty Conservation Institute	25-Feb-25
Dr Ghulam Ali Hadad Adel, the President of Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature	25-Feb-25
Dr Elfriede Iby, Head of Science and Culture at Vienna digital lab, Cultural Heritage Consulting	26-Feb-25
Group of 25 members from DIALOG: includes Pulitzer winners, Nobel laureates, top policymakers, university Deans, CEOs of major VC funds, and tech company founders	27-Feb-25
Ms Pallavi Aiyar, Foreign Correspondent and Author & Associate Editor of the online magazine, The Globalist, Spain	28-Feb-25
Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the Luso-American Development Foundation	4-Mar-25
Team of Senior Officers from Seychells Auditor General and Comptroller Auditor General of India	4-Mar-25
Ms Reshmi Dasgupta, Travel and Lifestyle Editor - The Economic Times, Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd and Mr Swapan Dasgupta	4-Mar-25
Ms Romila Thapar, Historian	4-Mar-25

H.E. Mr Brian Stimmler, acting Chargé d'affaires, US Embassy	13-May-25
Group of 150 IAS probationers as part of their immersion program	19-May-25
Mr Arif Babul, Infosys Visiting Chair Professor, IISc Bengaluru	22-May-25
US congressional Chief of Staff delegation visit	24-May-25
Mr Vivek Aggarwal,IAS, Secretary, M/o Culture, Government of India	24-May-25
Mr Satinder Pal Singh, Director General, CPWD	25-May-25
Sir Paul Maxime Nurse, English geneticist, former President of the Royal Society and Chief Executive and Director of the Francis Crick Institute; Noble Prize winner	26-May-25
Mr Tino Chrupalla, Member of German Parliament	27-May-25
Mr Munir Chagani , COO, Aga Hall Estate	4-Jun-25
Team from Australia National Museum & Kiran Nadar Museum of Art	10-Jun-25
Mr Vikas Kharge, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, to Hon. Chief Minister Maharashtra	17-Jun-25
H.E. Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador, Embassy of Spain, New Delhi	30-Jun-25
Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA	8-Jul-25
Mr K Sanjay Murthy, Comptroller and Auditor General of India	19-Jul-25
Mr Jon Fasman, Senior culture correspondent, The Economists	23-Jul-25
Mr Bobby Saifal and his family, Ref Naser Munjee	26-Jul-25
Mr Abhinav Rai Gupta, Havells	30-Jul-25
Group of 14 member delegation as a part of the German Foreign Minister's visit to India	3-Sep-25
Mr Prashant Singh Baghel, Joint Director Planning, MP Tourism Board	11-Sep-25
Judicial Delegates attending Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) in New Delhi	10-Nov-25
Mrs Subur Munjee and her son	28-Oct-25
Dr Silke Launert, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, along with a delegation.	21-Nov-25
Mr Volker Timmermann, Minister Deputy Chief of Protocol, Foreign Federal office and group of 10 delegates	17-Dec-25
Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secratary, M/o Fisheries	24-Dec-25



(Above) Residents of Nizamuddin Basti who have played a key role in several of the project's socio-economic components, were invited for a museum walk.



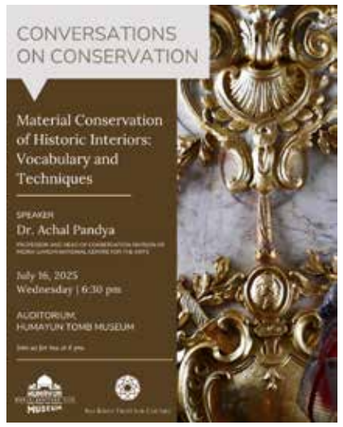


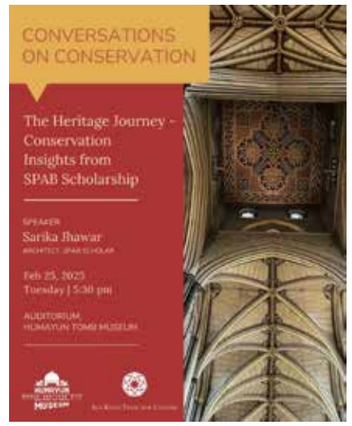
THE MUSEUM

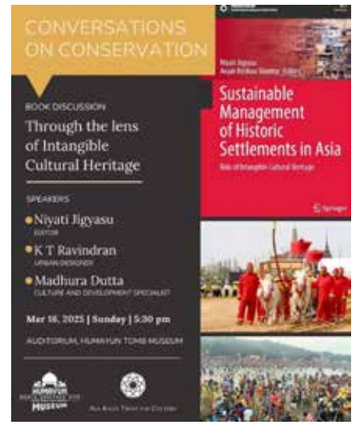
8. Museum Auditorium

Fulfilling one of the key objective of creating Nizamuddin into a cultural hub, the Museum Auditorium along with the Permanent galleries and traveling exhibitions, provides for a space to historians, music performers, scholars, folk artists, and institutions amongst others. It provides a platform for exchange of ideas and the arts, where people have the opportunity to learn and share knowledge.

The underground auditorium, with a capacity of 100-seats, is an intimate space where since 2024 several musical recitals, storytelling shows, dastangois, public talks, illustrated lectures, seminars and discussions have been held.

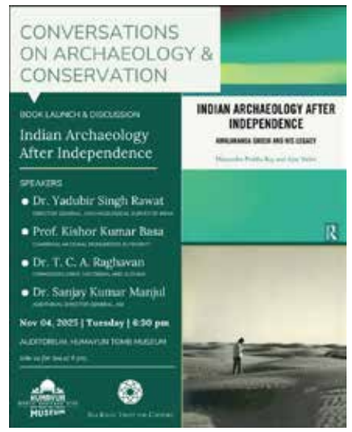


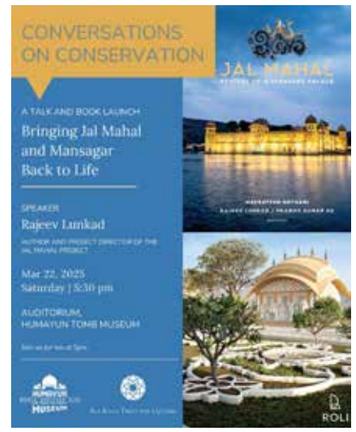


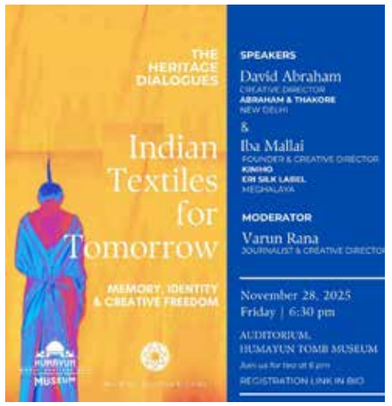


Conversations on Conservation & Archaeology

A talk series held at the Auditorium of the Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum, bringing together experts, practitioners, and audiences for discussions on heritage conservation and archaeology. Five editions were held in 2025, covering a range of themes from restoration practices to intangible cultural heritage and large-scale revival projects.









The Heritage Dialogues

Conceived as a platform for thoughtful, honest conversations, The Heritage Dialogues aim to encourage critical reflection and meaningful exchanges between creative minds who may not ordinarily cross each other's paths, yet their journeys are incredibly similar.
The intention is to also deepen and widen the definition of Indian heritage, bringing in more voices from the margins that draw upon traditional wisdom and lived experience. Initiated to mark the first anniversary of the Humayun World Heritage Site Museum, the dialogues are hosted by the museum and Aga Khan Trust for Culture in collaboration with Kindow, a travel and culture advisory.
The Heritage Dialogues has had two editions in 2025.

Puppet show

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Conservation Division & Cultural Archives in collaboration with UNIMA Puppeteers Trust, Serendipity Arts Festival and Humayun's Tomb Museum organised -TWO PUPPET SHOWS —showcasing the rich storytelling heritage of West Bengal: Indigenous People's Marriage – Benir Putul (Glove Puppets), and Jivanta Chair – Tarer Putul (String Puppets).
Both the shows were well received by public.





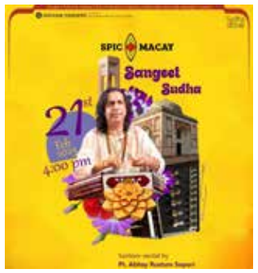
Sangeet Sudha / SPIC MACAY

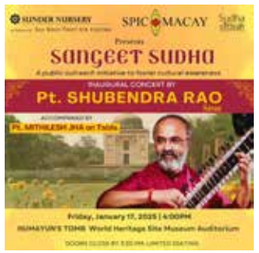
SPIC MACAY and Aga Khan Trust for Culture joined hands to launch a public outreach initiative aimed at fostering cultural awareness among the public especially youth in the
capital. This collaboration featured regular monthly programs of classical music at the A
uditorium, Humayun's Tomb World Heritage Site Museum.

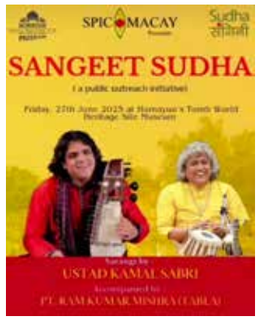
The inaugural concert under this initiative featured sitar virtuoso Pt. Shubendra Rao, accompanied by renowned tabla maestro Pt. Mithilesh Jha, promising an unforgettable evening of Indian classical music. Some of other eminent musicians who performed under this series are Pt. Sajan and Swaransh Mishra, Ustad Saeed Zafar Khan, Pt. Abhay Rustum Sopori, Pt. Madhup Mudgal & Ustad Jawaad Ali Khan.

In 2025, a total 11 such events were organised which includes some of the eminent artists from the field. All the events were well received by the public.



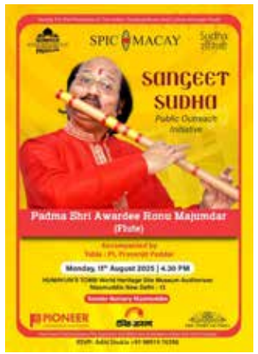


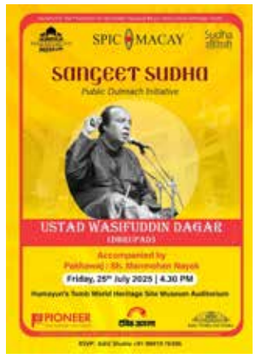












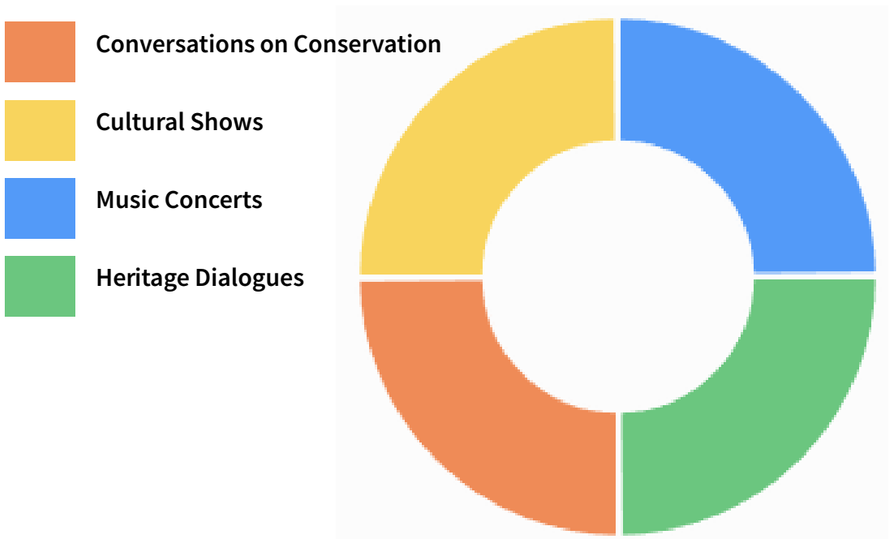








Programming in Auditorium:



Conservation

18th century Monuments in the Delhi Golf Club

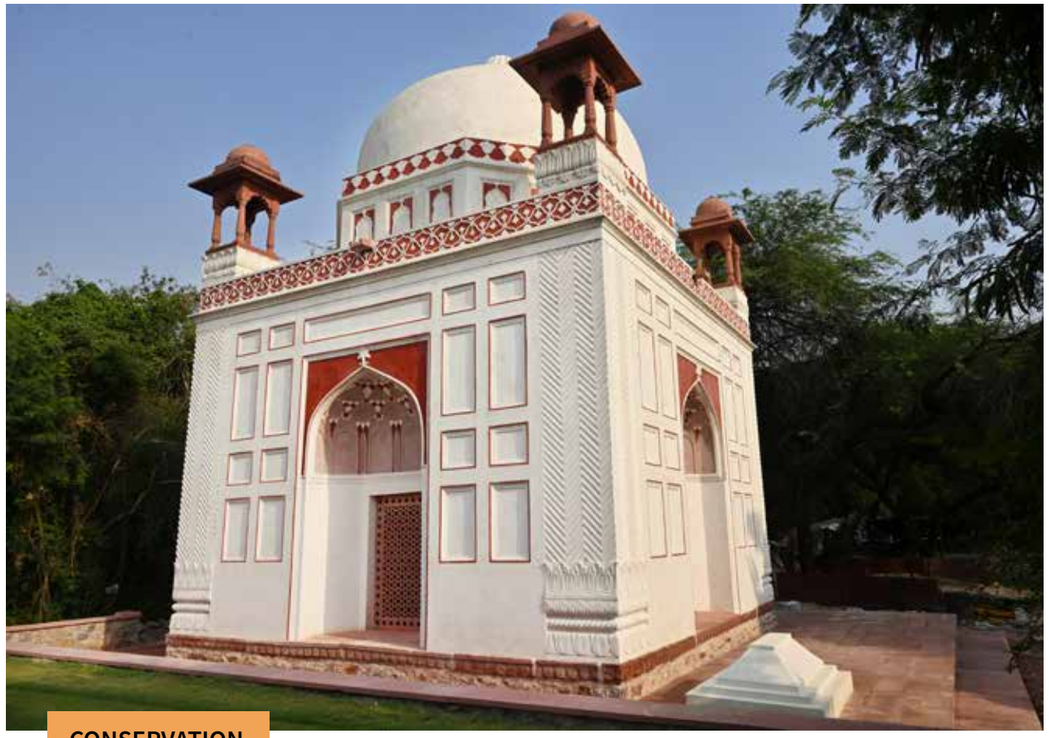
Within the Delhi Golf Club compound stand eleven monuments. Off these nine are notified as heritage buildings by the New Delhi Municipal Council and two structures collectively known as Lal Bangla are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India as National Monuments.

While the Delhi Golf Club has been undertaking minor routine maintenance at the monuments notified by the NDMC, in 2022, the Delhi Golf Club approached the Aga Khan Trust for Culture to undertake a comprehensive conservation programme on all NDMC notified monuments that stand with the Delhi Golf Club premises.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture was chosen after seeking inputs from various agencies including the Archaeological Survey of India, Heritage Conservation Committee and seeking comparative financial and technical proposals from some private parties as well.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Partnership with the Archeological Survey of India, Delhi Government's Department of Archaeology and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has undertaken conservation of over 50 monuments in the Humayun's Tomb – Sunder Nursery – Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti area - standing adjacent to the Delhi Golf Club.

The conservation of these eight monuments will result in an important group of structures getting a new lease of life as well as restore their original grandeur.



CONSERVATION

12 Bagichi Tomb *(Tee 04)*

After conservation image of Bagichi Tomb.

This lofty late Mughal tomb would have originally stood within a garden enclosure accessed through a low arched doorway over which was a triple arched compartment. Today, the tomb stands surrounded by the vast greens of the golf course. Square in plan, the tomb is accessed through a flat doorway set in an arched niche. Built in lakhori masonry, the exterior is decorated in stucco lime plaster and is in advanced state of deterioration.

The interior is similarly decorated in lime stucco and incised plasterwork finished with red-white polychrome. Within stand two unidentified graves. The dome rises from an octagonal drum and is surrounded by sandstone chattris on the four corners. The parapet is decorated in floral incised plasterwork in lime.

The architectural character of the building is lost due to decaying plasterwork and past conservation attempts in cement-lime plaster. Conservation works will include restoring traditional lime plaster to the external surfaces and restoration of decorative elements based on existing evidence.

Supported by:

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Container Corporation of India



(Left) View of the Bagichi Tomb after conservation works, and (above) before conservation.

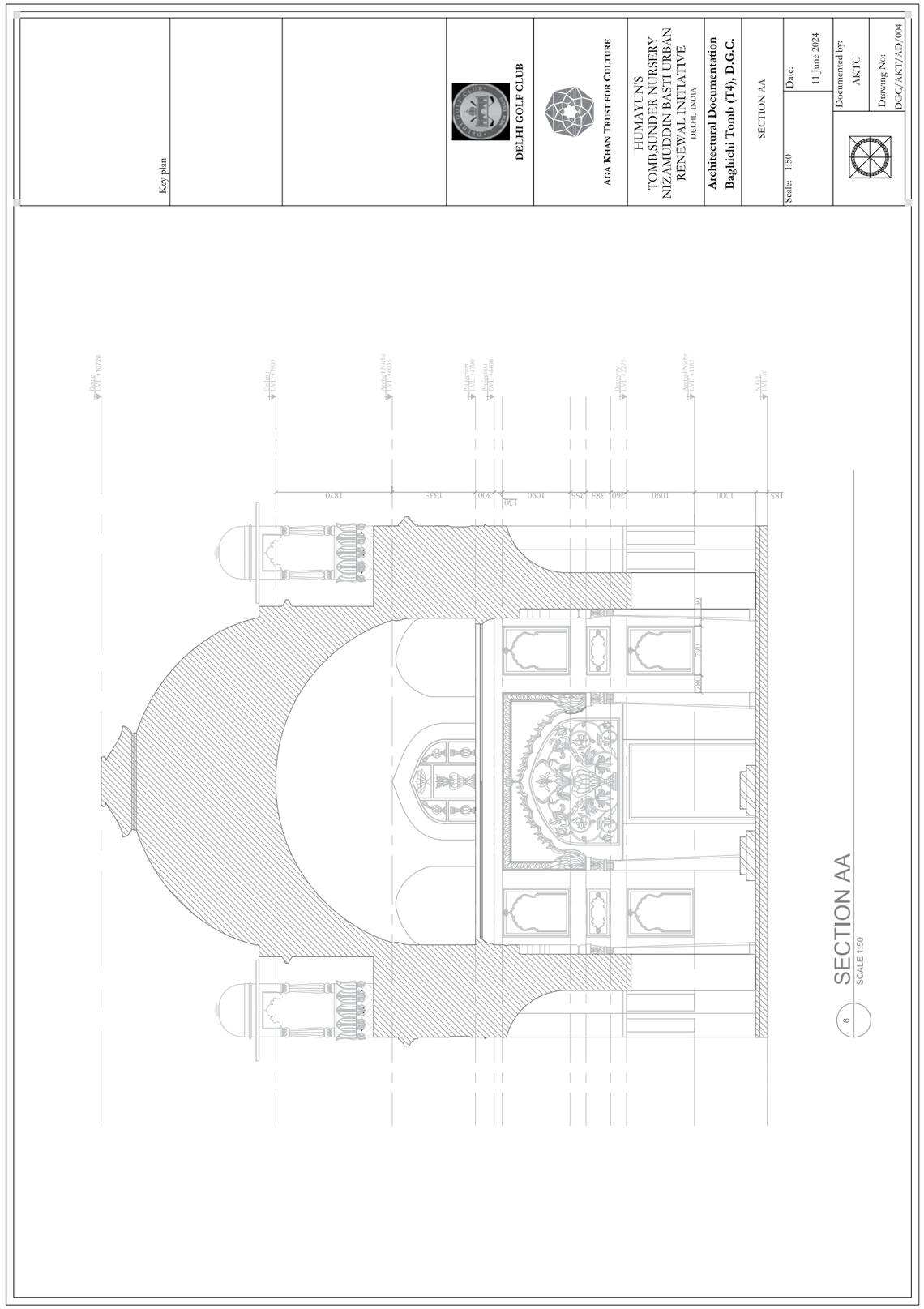
ACTION TAKEN:

1. Restoring original levels of the plinth, and sandstone elements

- Careful scientific clearance was conducted around the tomb's base to identify the original ground level. Documentation of discovered features was meticulously recorded and have informed the restoration of the original plinth levels and platform around the tomb.
- A detailed assessment of all sandstone elements, such as the plinth stones was undertaken to evaluate the extent of deterioration. Deteriorated elements have been carefully documented and restored using blocks of stone carefully carved by master craftsmen.
- Sandstone jaalis have been restored to the openings and a wooden door provided at the entrance.

2. Illumination

- To enhance the tomb's visibility, heritage appropriate lighting fixtures have been installed.





These original decorative motifs such as floral patterns and guldaan compositions on the internal walls, floral bands along the arch profile and niches made in arch patterns were documented in situ and 1:1 drawing were carefully prepared to be used by the master craftsmen as references for conservation and reinstatement. These decorative patterns were restored using traditional lime plaster, hand tools and established techniques of application and finishing, ensuring compatibility with historic fabric.











Images showing the preparation of 1 : 1 tracing of the kangura pattern and careful restoration by master craftsman using traditional lime mortar and techniques.













Clearence of earth around the base of the monument was undertaken to establish the historic ground and plinth levels. Features revealed during the investigation were documented and restoration of the original plinth levels and platform around the tomb was undertaken by removing excess earth around a six feet band. The reinstatement of appropriate levels also contributed to improved protection of the lower portions of the historic masonry from prolonged exposure to moisture.







Before



After



Before



After

NEXT STEPS:

- Collectively, these interventions have preserved the architectural authenticity of the tomb, enhanced its structural resilience, and restored its aesthetic and historical significance within the broader heritage landscape. The implementation team at AKTC will guide the groundskeeping staff at the DGC on general maintenance and upkeep of the monuments.



CONSERVATION

14 Early Mughal Tomb *(Tee 14/16)*

A stunning example of early Mughal architecture, this octagonal tomb—square within and richly adorned—stands on the western edge of the course.

This exquisitely decorated octagonal tomb is located on the western boundary of the course, and early descriptions indicate that it stood atop a raised platform. The exquisite details and construction indicate it to be of the early Mughal period.

Octagonal outside and square within, the tomb is accessed through decorative arched entrances on each of the cardinal directions. The ceilings and wall are adorned with incised plasterwork finished with polychrome and within are three unidentified graves.

The tomb is crowned with a dome, which springs from an eight-sided drum, decorated with arched panels.

Supported by:

Container Corporation of India



ACTION TAKEN:

1. Cleaning of polychrome layers

- Following the removal of modern plaster, meticulous cleaning of existing polychrome layers was undertaken. This delicate process aimed to remove accumulated dirt, soot, and any superficial layers that obscured the original polychrome decoration. This process enabled the identification and documentation of original finishes, incised patterns, and traces of polychrome. This was carried out by art conservators using non-abrasive methods to ensure the integrity of the paint surfaces.

2. Restoration of incised plaster

- Traditional lime plaster was restored on both interior and exterior surfaces using materials and techniques matching with the original construction. The lime mortar was prepared and applied in accordance with historic practices, restoring architectural homogeneity while ensuring long-term durability and compatibility with the historic masonry
- The incised plasterwork adorning the walls and ceilings was meticulously restored by skilled craftsmen. Surviving evidence of original patterns were carefully documented and guided the restoration of missing and damaged sections. Traditional tools and techniques were employed to accurately reproduce the detailed ornamentation and decorative patterns.
- Particular attention was given to the restoration of incised punning layers, sgraffito work, and polychrome finishes. Based on on-site documentation and surviving evidence, these decorative layers were carefully revived to reflect their original appearance, ensuring conformity in colour, texture, and finish while maintaining material compatibility.













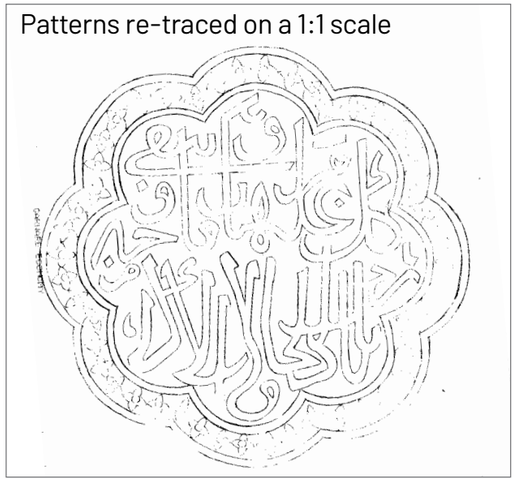


The incised plasterwork adorning the walls and ceilings was meticulously restored by skilled craftsmen. Surviving evidence of original patterns were carefully documented and guided the restoration of missing and damaged sections. Traditional tools and techniques were employed to accurately reproduce the detailed ornamentation and decorative patterns









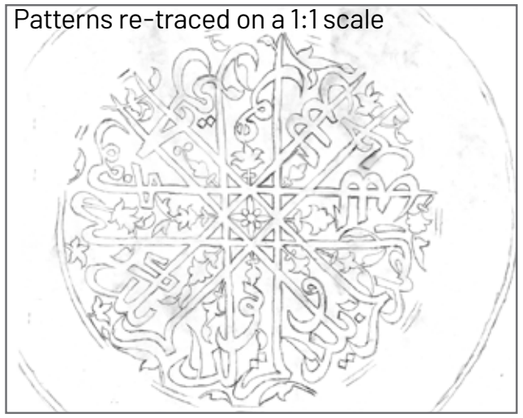






Based on the surviving elements, the details were carefully documented and 1:1 drawings were developed through which these missing medallions were reinstated on the façades and within the interior chamber in intricate lime-cut plasterwork, following traditional hand tools and techniques.











Images showing the documentation and surface preparation for the restoration of the missing medallion on the facade



Before



After



Before



After

3. Restoration of incised punning layers/sgraffito

Unique to this monument in this ensemble, is the employment of incised punning or sgraffito. Here, the surface punning layers are carefully scratched away to reveal the contrasting plaster layer beneath. This specialized technique requires meticulous attention to detail and a thorough understanding of historical craftsmanship. The restoration process involves careful cleaning, consolidation, and the precise restoration of the original designs.

4. Consolidation of the Dome

Inappropriate concrete layers laid during earlier repairs were dismantled from the roof and dome. The dome was consolidated and made watertight using compatible traditional materials, with accurate slopes reinstated to facilitate effective drainage. These measures were essential to prevent future water ingress and to protect the interior decorative surfaces.

5. Restoring original levels of the plinth

Careful scientific clearance around the base of the monument enabled the identification of original plinth levels. These were reinstated to restore the intended proportions of the structure and its relationship with the surrounding landscape. Traditional red sandstone flooring and plinth protection were provided to improve drainage and prevent rising damp.

6. Illumination of the monument

A sensitively designed illumination scheme was installed to enhance the visibility and legibility of the monument within the golf course landscape. Lighting fixtures were carefully positioned to highlight key architectural features while avoiding visual intrusion, thereby enhancing public appreciation without compromising the monument's historic character.



Before



After



Before



After



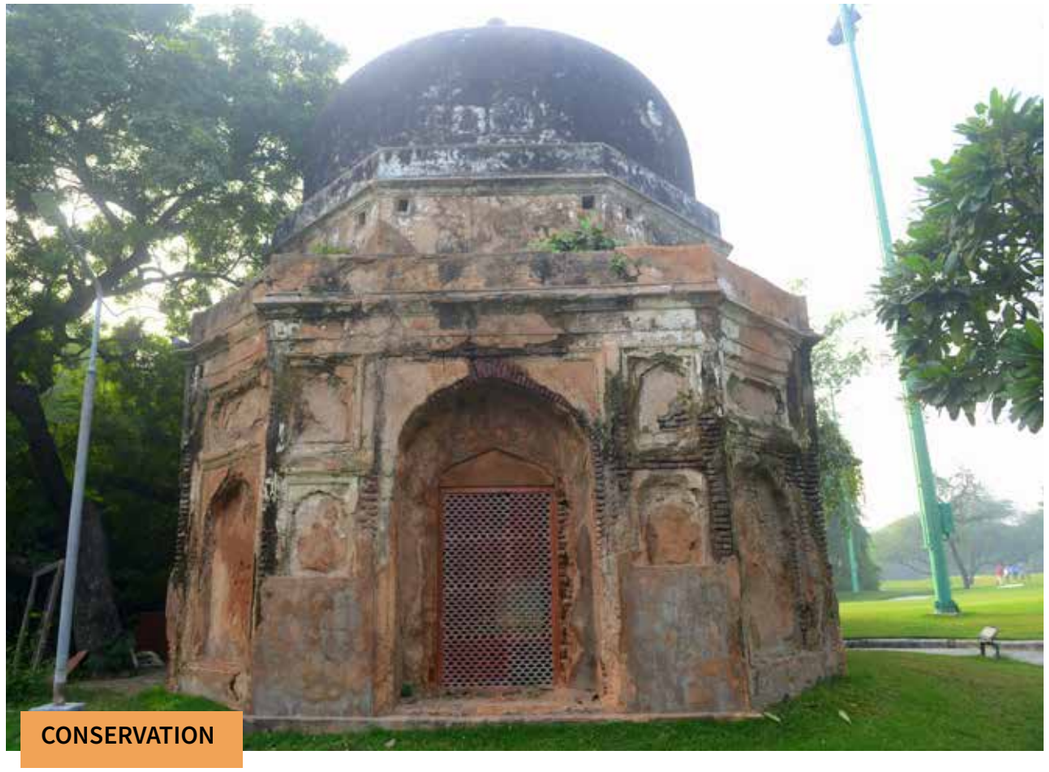
Before



After

NEXT STEPS:

- The conservation work undertaken during this period marks a crucial step towards the authentic restoration and long-term preservation of this significant early Mughal tomb. The implementation team at AKTC will guide the groundskeeping staff at the DGC on general maintenance and upkeep of the monuments.



CONSERVATION

15 Tomb of Sayyid Abid *(Tee 10)*

This tomb restored in recent times with modern materials has led to its ruinous appearance and conservation will be aimed at restoring traditional materials and the architectural character of the tomb.

Supported by:

DCM SHRIRAM
Growing with trust

Situated centrally within the Golf course and positioned immediately to the south of the Lal Bangla enclosure, this octagonal tomb occupies a prominent and visually significant location within the larger complex. The structure is characterized by arched openings positioned symmetrically along the cardinal directions, each entrance flanked by arched niches that enhance visual harmony of the façade. Within the tomb, the square interior is articulated by a series of arched wall niches, which were originally finished with finely crafted lime plaster.



ACTION TAKEN:

1. Restoration of Ceiling Stucco

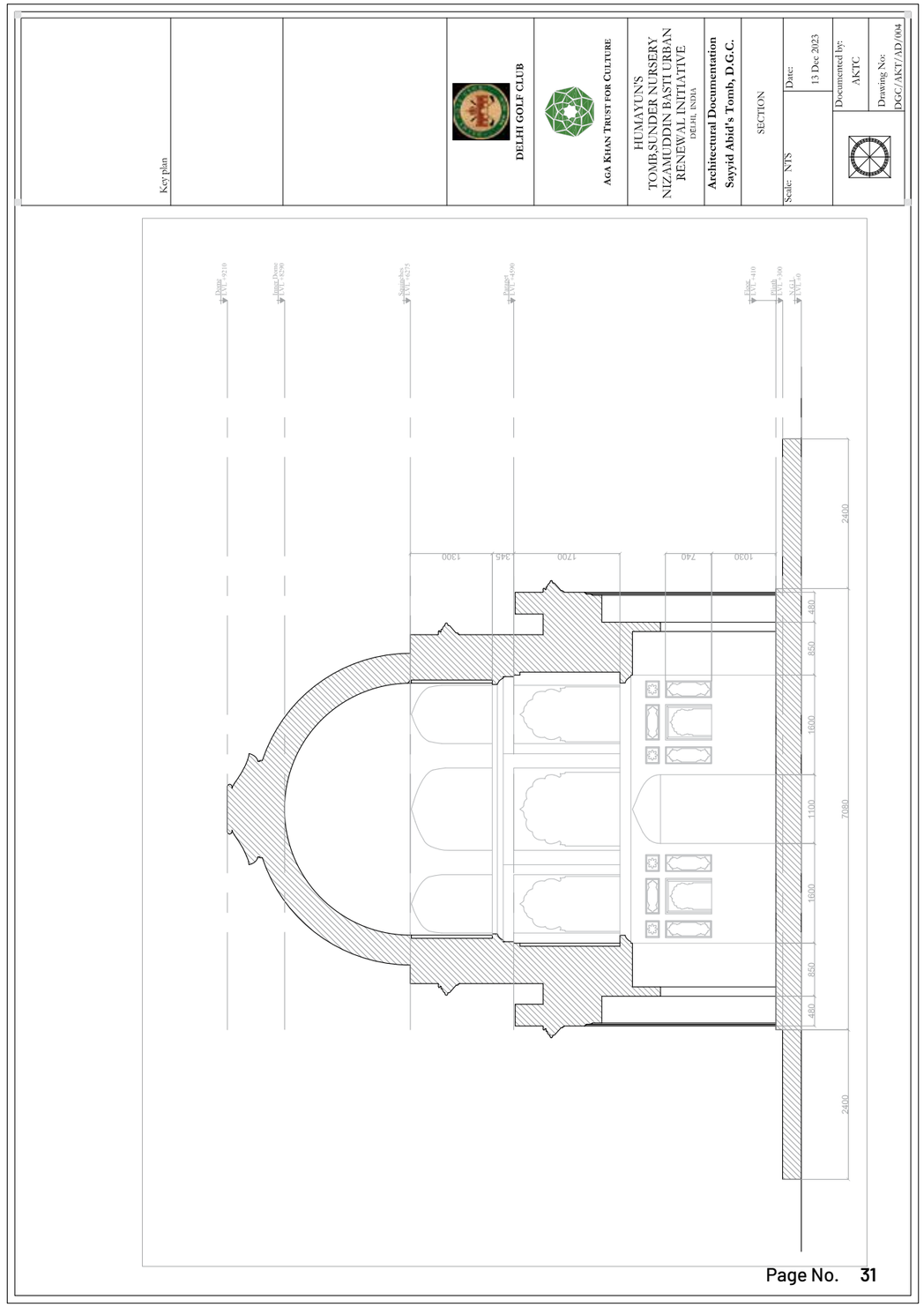
The ceiling of this tomb is decorated with stucco plaster. As with the wall surfaces, deteriorated plaster and modern cement-surkhi repairs were carefully dismantled. This was undertaken by craftsmen carefully, not to damage the existing original patterns. Following this, the master craftsmen painstakingly restored the ceiling as per original patterns documented at site. This was carried out using traditional tools, techniques and materials.

2. Restoration of Stucco Finishes

Similar to the ceiling stucco, the interior and exterior facades were extensively documented to understand the original patterns and intricate decorative work. Master craftsmen have restored these patterns based on original evidence found in-situ using traditional tools and techniques. Modern cement layers have been dismantled and restored with traditional lime plaster.

3. Restoration of original profiles of arches and niches

Past conservation attempts had distorted the original profiles of arches and niches in the building. Following thorough documentation of existing evidence, drawings were prepared to match the original and craftsmen have skilfully applied lime plaster to reshape these architectural elements to their original curvature and profiles.















The arched openings were carefully rebuilt to reinstate their original geometrical profiles and alignment, restoring the architectural rhythm of the façades and enhancing the long-term structural stability of the monument.

4. Revealing original levels of the plinth

Careful scientific clearance was conducted around the tomb's base to identify the original ground level. Documentation of discovered features was meticulously recorded and have informed the restoration of the original plinth levels and platform around the tomb.

5. Restoring deteriorated stone elements

A detailed assessment of all sandstone elements, such as the plinth stones and jaalis was undertaken to evaluate the extent of deterioration. Deteriorated elements have been carefully documented and restored using blocks of stone carefully carved by master craftsmen.

6. Illumination

A sensitively designed illumination scheme has been installed at this prominently located monument.



Before



After

NEXT STEPS:

- The implementation team at AKTC will guide the groundskeeping staff at the DGC on general maintenance and upkeep of the monuments.







Before



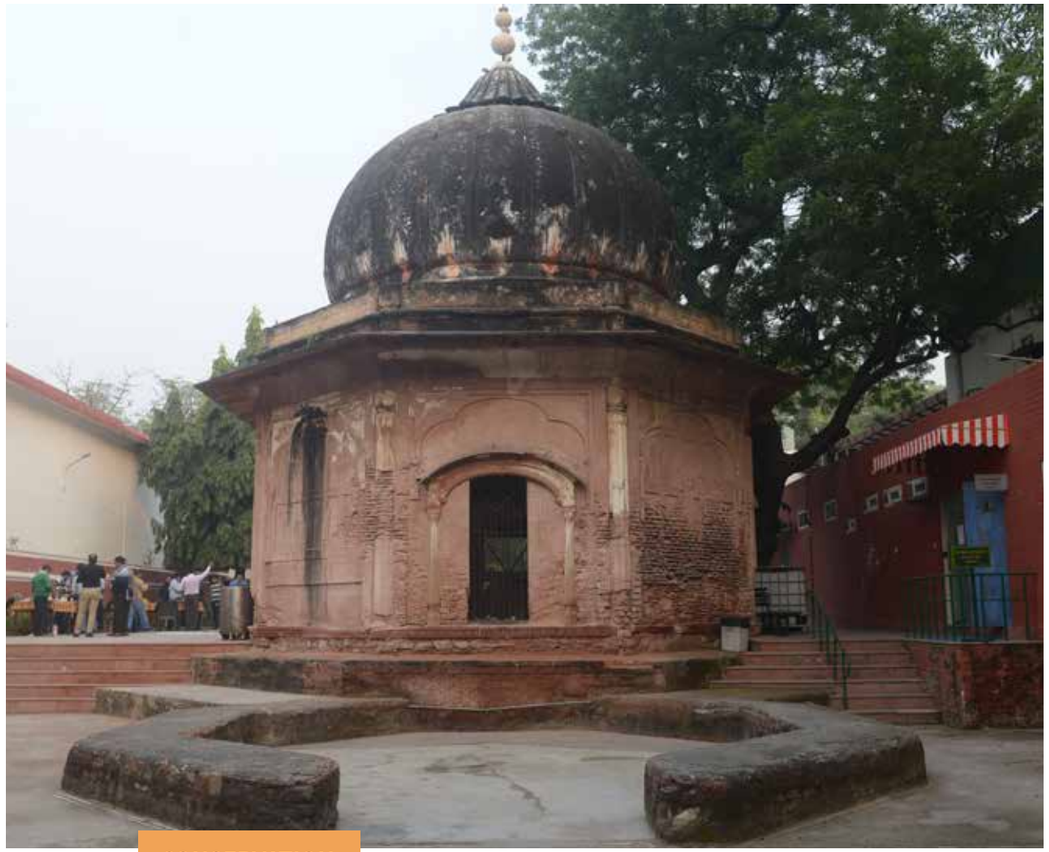
After



Before



After



CONSERVATION

15 Octagonal Tomb

This tomb restored in recent times with modern materials has led to its ruinous appearance and conservation will be aimed at restoring traditional materials and the architectural character of the tomb.

This unlisted monument lies in the swimming pool area of the golf course and is octagonal in plan with bangladar arched openings on four sides. The tomb is crowned by a fluted onion-shaped dome, crowned by a marble finial. The parapet at the roof level showed traces of glazed tile work, which is also seen in medallions on the façade. The tomb would have been part of a large enclosure, accessed through the adjoining gateway and remnants of the enclosure wall are still visible. The tomb would have sat on a raised platform, and conservation works were aimed at restoring these original levels, and landscape the surrounding areas to prevent water ingress.

Supported by:

कॉनकॉर

Container Corporation of India



ACTION TAKEN:

1. Removal of modern layers and surface cleaning

Conservation works commenced with the careful removal of modern plaster layers, soot deposits, and repeated limewash accretions from the interior and exterior surfaces of the tomb. These later additions had obscured original decorative features and contributed to the deterioration of the historic fabric. Surface cleaning was undertaken using non-invasive methods appropriate to lime-based materials, ensuring that surviving historic plaster and masonry were not damaged.

2.Consolidation of historic masonry

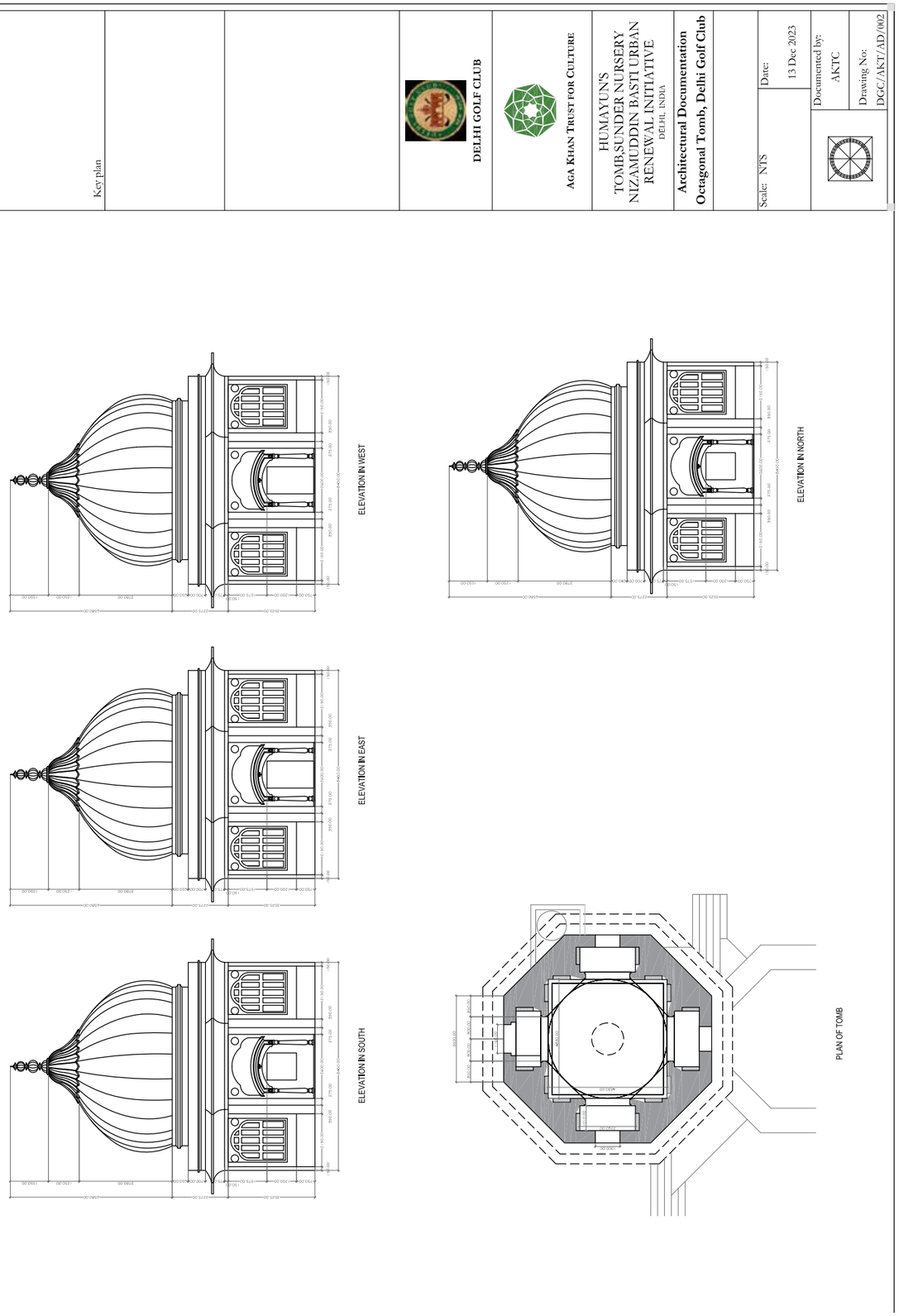
Areas of exposed and weakened masonry, particularly where historic lime plaster had been lost, were carefully assessed and consolidated to restore structural integrity. Loose masonry joints were raked and repointed using compatible lime mortar, and friable surfaces were stabilised to prevent further material loss. These interventions were undertaken in a minimal and targeted manner, ensuring long-term durability while preserving the authenticity and legibility of the original fabric.

3. Preparation and replastering of exposed masonry surfaces

Large areas of the internal façades where historic lime plaster had been entirely lost were carefully cleaned and prepared for restoration. These exposed masonry surfaces were subsequently finished with compatible traditional lime plaster, reinstating visual continuity while ensuring material breathability and long-term durability.

4.Documentation and restoration of incised lime plaster

Following cleaning, the walls and ceilings were closely examined to document surviving incised lime plaster patterns. Where original motifs were visible, these were used as reference for restoration. Master craftsmen reinstated missing or damaged incised plasterwork using traditional materials and techniques, carefully matching the original texture, depth, and detailing to restore the decorative character of the interior.



Key plan

DELHI GOLF CLUB

AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

HUMAYUN'S
TOMB,SUNDER NURSERY
NIZAMUDDIN BASTI URBAN
RENEWAL INITIATIVE
DELHI, INDIA

Architectural Documentation
Octagonal Tomb, Delhi Golf Club

Scale: NTS

Date:
13 Dec 2023

Documented by:
AKTC

Drawing No:
DGC/AKT/AD/002



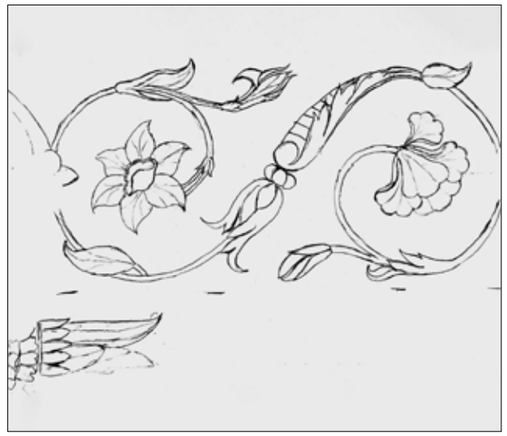




With only 2–5% of the parapet tilework remaining, the AKTC team was able to determine the original patterns. Complete documentation of the surviving patterns was undertaken, and 1:1 scale drawing was prepared (as shown in top image).
Based on this, 3776 handmade glazed tile pieces were restored to the monument over several months.













Original patterns being traced and reproduced in 1:1 (full-scale) drawings for use by master craftsmen to restore the missing stucco work using traditional lime mortar, hand tools, and building craft techniques.













Documentation of original calligraphic inscription and preparation of complete verse on tracing sheet to carry out the careful restoration of a Quranic inscription on the interior wall surface.
The experts determined that the first wall is written in a larger and stylistically different script, while the remaining three walls contain smaller, denser calligraphy, to accommodate the rest of the surah. They also confirmed that the inscription is executed in Naskh script.

5.Restoration of bangladar arched openings

The tomb's distinctive bangladar arched openings, present on four of the eight façades, were assessed for material loss and structural stability. Missing and deteriorated red sandstone elements were replaced using matching stone, carved and finished by skilled craftsmen employing traditional techniques. This intervention reinstated the architectural articulation and distinctive character of the monument.

6.Restoration of the marble finial

The marble finial crowning the fluted onion-shaped dome was documented, revealing loss and fragmentation of original stone components. Missing and damaged elements were carefully restored using matching marble, shaped and finished by skilled craftsmen to accurately replicate the original profile and detailing. The restored finial was securely reassembled using compatible materials and methods, reinstating its structural stability and visual completeness while respecting the monument's historic character.

7.Restoration of glazed tilework medallions

Traces of glazed tilework identified on the parapet and within decorative medallions on the façades were carefully conserved and restored. The restoration drew upon established knowledge and craftsmanship developed through similar conservation efforts at Humayun's Tomb and Sabz Burj, Nizamuddin. Replacement tiles were prepared to match original colours, glazing, and profiles, ensuring visual and material continuity.

8.Illumination of the monument

A sensitively designed illumination scheme was introduced to enhance the visibility and architectural character of the tomb within the swimming pool precinct of the golf course. Lighting fixtures were discreetly positioned to highlight the fluted dome, bangladar arched openings, and key façade elements without visual intrusion. The illumination improves legibility of the monument after dusk while respecting its historic fabric and setting and contributes to greater appreciation of the structure within the wider landscape.

















NEXT STEPS:

- The implementation team at AKTC will guide the groundskeeping staff at the DGC on general maintenance and upkeep of the monuments.



CONSERVATION

10 Restoration of Humayun's Tomb's Gardens

Nurturing the historic Mughal garden through meticulous horticultural care, preserving its landscapes, water channels and timeless character.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) continued the comprehensive maintenance and enhancement of the historic gardens at Humayun's Tomb throughout 2025, ensuring that the site's landscape remains true to its historic character while supporting its ecological vitality.

As part of ongoing plantation efforts, a total of 834 trees and plants were introduced across Humayun's Tomb, Isa Khan's Tomb, and Bu Halima Garden

Regular horticultural maintenance included the upkeep of lawns, hedges, ground covers, seasonal plantations, and the restoration of garden features across the World Heritage Site. The historic water channels, an integral element of the Mughal Charbagh garden design, were also meticulously maintained to preserve their visual appeal and functional integrity.

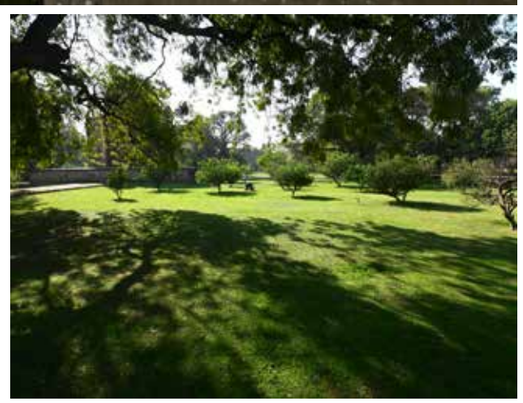
As part of ongoing plantation efforts, a total of 834 trees and plants were introduced across Humayun's Tomb, Isa Khan's Tomb, and Bu Halima Garden. Planting included **250 Mosambi, 40 Chakotra (Pomelo), 40 Citrus, 200 Mogra, 100 Delonix, and 14 Juniper plants** within the Humayun's Tomb complex. Additional plantations opposite Isa Khan's Tomb and Bu Halima comprised **20 Amla, 140 Citrus, 10 Nashpati (Pear), 10 Jamun, 5 Gulmohar, and 5 Amaltas trees.**



These sustained conservation and horticultural interventions reinforce the ecological richness and historic landscape of the World Heritage Site, ensuring that its gardens continue to offer visitors an authentic experience of the Mughal garden tradition while enhancing biodiversity and long-term environmental resilience.









CONSERVATION

9. Management of Rahim Mausoleum

The conservation of Rahim's Tomb, undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in partnership with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), InterGlobe Foundation and IndiGo, was completed in 2020. Since the completion of the conservation works, efforts have continued towards the routine care of the monument, its landscape, visitor amenities and interpretation, ensuring that the site remains well maintained and continues to provide a meaningful experience for visitors. This is part of the Adopt a Heritage 2.0, launched by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture.

The visitor infrastructure at the site is regularly inspected and maintained as part of ongoing site management. Sanitation facilities are cleaned daily and serviced routinely to maintain appropriate standards of hygiene and visitor comfort. The parking area is also maintained to ensure that access and movement around the site remains orderly.

Pathways within the garden receive regular cleaning and upkeep, with attention given to the condition of pathways and areas of pedestrian movement. Minor repairs and interventions are undertaken as required to ensure that visitors can move safely and comfortably through the site.

Interpretation continues to play an important role in communicating the significance of Rahim's Tomb and the wider legacy of Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khanan. The permanent exhibition provides visitors with contextual information on Rahim, the history and architecture of the tomb, and its cultural significance. It also enables the conservation process to be understood as part of the site's history, documenting the restoration undertaken through the partnership between AKTC, ASI, InterGlobe Foundation and IndiGo. Together, the exhibition and on-site interpretation allow visitors to understand not only the monument itself, but also the processes through which it has been conserved.

The landscape surrounding the tomb continues to be managed as an integral component of the historic site. Routine horticultural activities include seasonal pruning, weeding, watering, replacement of plants where necessary, and general upkeep of the lawns and planting areas. Regular landscape maintenance helps retain the intended character of the gardens while ensuring that vegetation does not adversely affect the monument or visitor movement.

The tomb is illuminated at night and is also regularly inspected to ensure that the monument continues to be appropriately lit during evening hours. Lighting fixtures, electrical connections and associated infrastructure are periodically checked, with cleaning, adjustment and minor repairs undertaken as required. Attention is given to maintaining the intended quality and distribution of light while ensuring that fixtures remain unobtrusive within the historic setting. Ongoing maintenance of the illumination forms an important part of the overall care of the site.

Continued attention to the monument, landscape, visitor infrastructure and interpretation allows Rahim's Tomb to remain both physically well cared for and actively accessible to the public. These measures support the continued use of the site as a place of heritage appreciation, learning and public engagement while retaining the historic character and significance of the monument.



CONSERVATION

9. Nizamuddin Monuments

The conservation of Nizamuddin's historic monuments by AKTC is a decade-long effort combining heritage conservation with community and urban renewal. Through scientific conservation, traditional craftsmanship, landscape improvement and sensitive interventions, neglected monuments have been restored while their historic settings have been revitalised. The initiative also addresses community needs, helping integrate the monuments into the living neighbourhood and create accessible, meaningful public spaces.

Nizamuddin Baoli

It is believed that Sufi Saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya initiated the work by digging this magnificent stepwell with his own hands and It is believed that Sufi Saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya initiated the work by digging this magnificent stepwell with his own hands and uttering a blessing on its water that, 'he who drank one drop of it should have no fear of the fire of hell.'.

Hazrat Nizamuddin Baoli was built in AD 1321-2 and is the only surviving step-well in Delhi which still holds water, considered sacred by the millions of annual pilgrims. The vaulted southern arcade of the Baoli is contemporary to its Tughlaq construction as are possible the two domed pavilions on either side of its northern edge. The western side of the baoli has three monuments – the Chini Ka Burj, Gogabai tomb and the Lal Chaubura while the eastern side has the vaulted corridor leading to the Dargah.

The Baoli conservation is an example of a complex urban conservation project with multiple requirements that could only be addressed by a multi- disciplinary team and partnership of several government agencies.

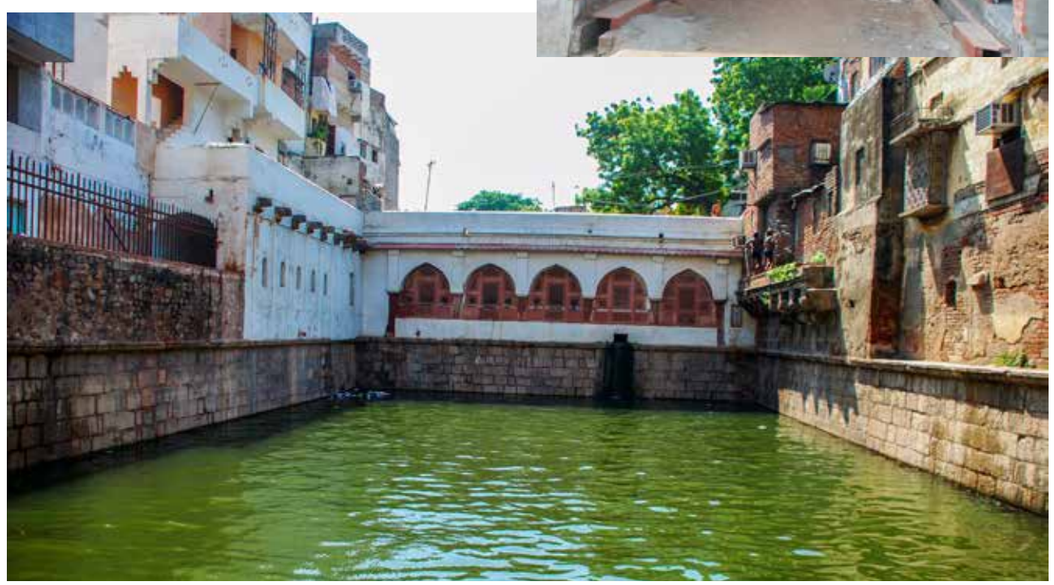
The AKDN team initiated dialogue with the residents and then on the behalf of the residents with concerned government agencies culminating in AKTC building houses for all families on alternate plots secured for them from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi/ Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board.

In this **first successful relocation carried out in Delhi in several years it was ensured that the families continue to reside adjoining** one another to maintain community bonds and support, additional support such as transport allowance, vocational training, access to healthcare and education was provided.









Jamaat Khana Mosque

The conservation of the Jamaat Khana Mosque demonstrates the value of a careful, research-led approach to safeguarding living heritage. Undertaken through extensive documentation, condition assessment, stakeholder consultation and skilled craftsmanship, the project has revived the architectural and decorative character of this significant Khilji-era monument while respecting its continued religious use.









Chaunsath Khambha

The conservation of Chaunsath Khambha, a unique 17th-century marble mausoleum of Mirza Aziz Koka, focused on retaining its original architectural fabric while addressing extensive structural deterioration. A detailed study revealed severe cracking in over 80% of the marble blocks, compounded by inappropriate past repairs using white cement. Given the monument's distinctive construction and the individuality of each marble stone, the conservation approach prioritised retaining all original stone, while replacing corroded iron dowels with appropriately sized stainless-steel dowels and undertaking essential roof repairs to prevent further water ingress.

Supported by:

The project also extended beyond the monument itself, with the landscaping of its large forecourt envisioned as a public cultural space and performance venue for the Qawwali musicians of Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti, strengthening the connection between conservation, community and the living cultural heritage of the neighbourhood.







Mirza Ghalib's Mausoleum

The cultural significance of Mirza Ghalib's Tomb provide dignity to the historical character of the Protected Monument

Restoring serenity to the tomb enclosure despite being located on a busy street which is also a primary access to the Dargah of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

Enhancing the urban setting of the tomb - a setting that brings dignity to the enclosure and allows visitors a place of contemplation. A cultural venue has been created in the Basti which is actively used to hold poetry recitals in memory of the poet.









Supported by:

Atgah Khan's Mausoleum

Built in CE 1566-67 by Atgah Khan's son, Mirza Aziz Kokaltash (who held an important position in Akbar's court), it is the finest example of early Mughal architecture. The mausoleum is profusely ornamented and uses a combination of red sandstone and white marble, with red sandstone inlay panels on all four facades and decorative inscribed marble panels with handmade tile inlay work in the spandrels. The interiors, once highly decorative with red sandstone jaalis and incised plasterwork motifs and inscriptions from the holy Quran in calligraphy, have mostly been stripped of this original work. In 2002, five layers of cement-surkhi plaster were laid that replaced much of the red-blue ceiling with ornamental incised plaster work. The crypt of the tomb is presently occupied.









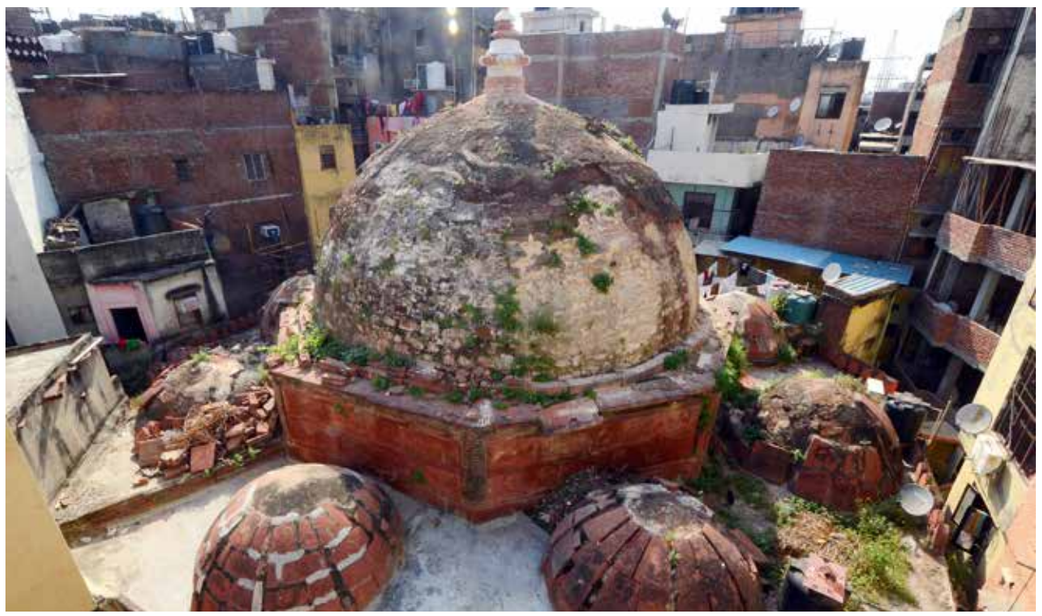
Supported by:

Khan I Jahan Tilangani's Mausoleum

Built in 1368–69 A.D., Tilangani's Tomb is recognized as Delhi's first octagonal tomb. Over the centuries, the monument became deeply integrated into the surrounding urban fabric and was occupied by local families. By the time of AKTC's assessment, its arched openings were blocked with modern masonry, while deteriorated sandstone cladding, vegetation growth, and water seepage threatened the structure.

Under the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative, AKTC adopted a "surgical" conservation approach, prioritising minimal disturbance, careful restoration, and integration of the resident community rather than forcible displacement.





Barah Khambha

On the eastern end of Lodhi Road, at the edge of Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti stands a16th century Lodhi era domed tomb building, known as Barah Khamba on account ofthe 12pillars that stand on its four sides. Barah Khamba stands within the Delhi Master Plan designatedheritage Zone of Nizamuddin and in close proximity to the Humayun's TombWorld Heritage Site

In 2014, the Delhi Urban Heritage Foundation of the DDA awarded a grant to AKTC toundertake the conservation of Barah Khamba, located prominently on Lodhi Road aswell as sensitively landscape the park within which this 16th century monument stands.

Supported by:

Conservation works were undertaken by master craftsmen using traditional materialssuch as lime mortar to conserve the building to how the original builders, five centuriesago had meant it to be seen, and were supervised by a multi-disciplinary AKTC teamcomprising conservation architects, engineers, historians, landscape architects,designers and horticulturists, amongst others.





Hazrat Amir Khusrau's Tomb

Amir khusrau burial is placed in the south compound of the main shrine of Nizamuddin Auliya which is presently known as the Dalaan of Amir Khusrau's. The tomb of Amir Khusrau was added at different times, as was that of Nizamuddin Auliya's. The tomb sits in an enclosure of 28'x20' surrounded by red sandstone lattice walls made during the reign of the emperor Humayun. The enclosure, paved with marble, is entered through a doorway on the south, where it is partly roofed with stone slabs (an addition during the late 18th century). The tomb chamber, which is oblong in plan, measures 16'x12' externally and is constructed of marble. It is covered by a vaulted roof, supported by 12 pillars, and the dome has two marble finials (Guldastas).

A proposal for heritage friendly lighting to retain the historic character of the tomb was presented to the dargah committee. The same was approved and will be implemented early next year by undertaking the removal of all unplanned electrical wiring and lighting fixtures from the dome. A new design for the covering the outer corridor was presented to the Dargah committee. The same has been approved and will be built by removing the existing temporary roof that is made of fabric sheeting.











CONSERVATION

15 Sharing Learnings

Traditional lime mortars have long relied on organic additives, from plant extracts to natural sugars and lentils, to enhance workability, durability, and performance. This publication explores the scientific analysis behind these historic practices, examining how such additives influence the physical and chemical properties of lime mortars.

Built Heritage Conservation as Evidence: Documenting Impact and Supporting Research

The project builds upon a longstanding collaboration between the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), the Aga Khan Foundation, and the Tata Trusts, advancing a shared commitment to rigorous research, documentation, and dissemination in the field of built heritage conservation.

Addendum to the Built Heritage Conservation Specifications Manual

An addendum to the Built Heritage Conservation Specifications Manual, with a focused emphasis on two critical traditional materials: lime mortar additives and handmade glazed tiles. Both materials are fundamental to the conservation of historic masonry structures in India yet remain under-researched in terms of their material science, performance characteristics, and appropriate contemporary application.

The addendum seeks to address key knowledge gaps through structured empirical research, field documentation, and laboratory testing. It aims to provide conservation professionals with scientifically grounded insights and practical guidance for the informed use of traditional materials and techniques. By formalizing research findings into clear technical specifications, the addendum will strengthen conservation practice and support greater consistency in project implementation.

Supported by:

TATA TRUSTS

ACTION TAKEN:

- Dedicated multidisciplinary research teams have been constituted to lead the technical investigations and documentation processes. Clear field sampling protocols have been established to ensure methodological consistency and scientific rigor in the preparation of samples.
- Laboratory and institutional partnerships have been formalized to support analytical testing, material characterization, and performance evaluation. In parallel, comprehensive documentation frameworks have been developed for lime mortar additives and traditional glazed tile production processes, integrating field observations, craft practices, and laboratory findings into a structured research matrix.
- To strengthen on-site research capacity, a field laboratory has been set up to facilitate preliminary testing, sample preparation, and immediate documentation. This enables real-time quality assessment and supports more efficient coordination between field investigations and advanced laboratory analysis.







Gond



Jaggery



Jaiphal



NEXT STEPS:

Continue structured research, field investigations, and laboratory testing to deepen material analysis and validate findings. Consolidate results, technical data, and recommendations into a comprehensive report for publication and integration into the Specifications Manual Addendum.

III.

Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust

City assets such as the Sunder Nursery Heritage Park need protection and management if they are to remain community assets and enrich the quality of life the city's residents. In order to ensure that the Sunder Nursery Park remains a well-managed asset for the city, it needs to have a management plan that will specify the management systems that specify how the Park is to be managed so that the ecosystems, heritage monuments and visitor facilities are maintained.

A management plan was developed for Sunder Nursery that documented current practices on heritage management, ecology, existing facilities and plans for future facilities, management structure, operations, visitor management, outreach, social media policy, managing revenue, managing statutory compliances and maintaining indemnity of Sunder Nursery.

Trustees :

Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD)

Central Public Works Department (CPWD)

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC)

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC)

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

16 Sunder Nursery Management

The sustainability of all components of the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative has been a concern since the project's inception. Clause 1 of the 2007 MoU reflects this. The Archaeological Survey of India has already taken care of the national monuments in the Humayun's Tomb complex. However, additional support is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Sunder Nursery development and the socio-economic development components at the Nizamuddin Basti. Consequently, the Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust was established in 2018, with AKTC and AKF taking on the role of Management Trustees for ten years. The Management Trust has ensured visitors enjoy Sunder Nursery as intended while adding new amenities to enhance their experience. The ticketed entry to Park began on 15 November 2018. Over the last six years, the visitor number has reachedthe milestone of 5 million visitors (Dec 2018 - July 2025) The revenue generated from ticket sales is ploughed back in to the maintenance of Sunder Nursery.

SECURITY



Utmost effort is made to make Sunder Nursery a safe and inclusive space, while being attentive to the needs of those with disabilities. The staff diligently adheres to and implements the latest safety policies, protocols, and procedures to ensure the security of visitors.

Visitor safety is ensured, and the park is protected from vandalism by trained security guards who are equipped to handle emergencies and follow safety protocols.

In 2025, there were 24 Fire Training sessions and 48 Physical Training sessions conducted for Sunder Nursery's security staff. These training sessions play a crucial role in enhancing the capabilities and readiness of security personnel to deal with emergencies.



HOUSEKEEPING



HORTICULTURE

Additional Services



ADDITIONAL RESTROOMS -

To improve the sanitation facilities and ease congestion onthe current restrooms, a new toilet block has been constructed towards the northern edge of the Park, which is in close proximity to the area which has a high visitor concentration like the lake and flower beds. This strategic location provides convenient access for visitors enjoying the lakeside and helps maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the area by reducing traffic to the existing toilets.



WATER SUPPLY TO NDMC

AN efficient rainwater harvesting system at Sunder Nursery has raised the groundwater table to 4 meters. Excess groundwater is being supplied to NDMC in tankers.

SELFIE SPOTS

To make the park and its attractions an every-evolving pattern, in 2023 Two 'selfie' spots were created, which provides an idyllic backdrop within a historic framework. These antique pieces which comprise of sandstone jaali arcade are reminiscent of haveli architecture of Rajasthan. These are situated on the lake island and the visitor path near the Arc of Discovery.



Wilderness





BIRD HABITAT

Birds and butterflies are two groups that can be used as ecological indicators. Birds are ubiquitous, are easy to observe, and different species have particular requirements of habitat for foraging, breeding, and shelter.

A contiguous stretch of dense green cover across Sunder Nursery continues on to the adjoining National Zoological Park and the Batashewala Complex, providing a protected bird habitat for the ground nesting national bird, the Peacock.

The large collection of old trees – of which not one has been cut during the landscape works encourage bird species such as the Grey Hornbill – scarcely found in other parts of Delhi.

With over 170 bird species seen in Sunder Nursery, the park is now a bird haven. Additionally, a walled area of 2.88 acres within Sunder Nursery has been planted with 6,250 trees from 56 different species, creating a secure habitat for ground-nesting birds. This area will be open for bird- watchers daily from 7 am to 9 am, except during the breeding season.


Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher


Eurasian Golden Oriole


Coppersmith Barbet


Yellow-footed Green Pigeon


Indian Roller


Green Bee-eater

Additional Visitor Attractions

Visitor amenities are crucial in shaping the visitor experience by ensuring comfort, convenience, and enjoyment. The Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust has created and maintained functions vital for keeping the Park operational and providing an enjoyable experience for visitors. This includes preserving amenities established in the past and developing new amenities based on visitor needs.

To enhance the visitor experience in Sunder Nursery, GSNMT commissions regular and periodic studies to understand visitor experience and perception. This exercise is conducted every year, and the findings are used in further planning to enhance the visitor experience.

As the park attracts many visitors, the management must be responsive to their needs. In 2025, the following amenities were included for the visitors in the park:





(Left) Two beautifully designed picnic areas have been established at the lake's edge, providing a perfect spot for visitors to enjoy the serene winter landscape. The sandstone squares with white marble inlay pattern provides for a picturesque lake-side setting.

The children's park serves as a major attraction for young children visiting Sunder nursery with their families. Over the time, various components required repair and fitting work due to wear n tear resulting from constant usage. Hence renovation of the entire children's park was done which included the installation of new swings, jungle gym, repair and painting work for existing wooden and metal swings.





Sunder Nursery

17 The Gardenhouse

A building in a garden ~ a ‘forest’ in the building!

Supported by:

QRG INVESTMENTS AND HOLDINGS LIMITED

Building Design:
Ashok B Lall Architects

The Garden House at Sunder Nursery is envisioned as a living exhibitfor ecological awareness. Designed as an experiential learning space, it will interpret the richness of regional landscapes for a wide audience. With over a million visitors to Sunder nursery each year—many of them school children—the Garden House will serve as a key platform for environmental education.

At Sunder Nursery, a 12-acre micro-habitat zone revives Delhi’s vanishing biodiversity with over 100 native tree species. The Garden House is at the helm of this zone—an interpretive space for its exhibits and the adjoining open-air arboretum. An extension of the micro-habitat zone, it plans to invite learning in a natural setting.



Ground floor plan



First floor plan



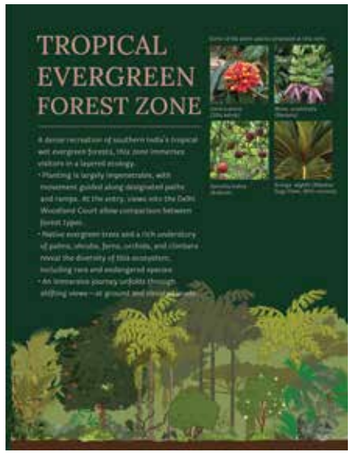
Section for Tropical Evergreen Enclosure & Delhi Woodland Court

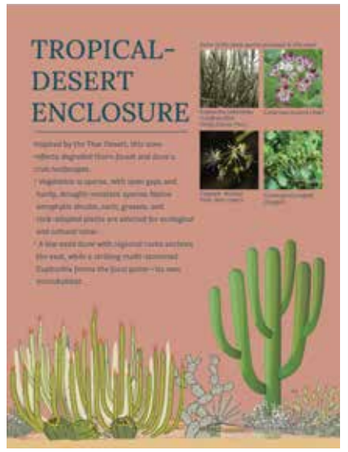
ACTION TAKEN:

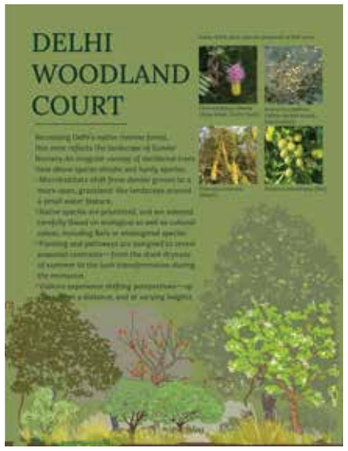
- **Project Agreement**: The final project agreement for the Garden House was signed with the project donor, QRG Investments And Holdings Ltd.
- **Architectural Design Development:** A consultancy agreement was signed with A B Lall Architects for the design of the Garden House. The Concept Design, Design Development, and Schematic Design stages were developed and finalized during 2025.
- **Soil Testing and Geotechnical Investigation:** Geotechnical investigations were conducted at the project site by the Shriram Institute for Industrial Research to determine the safe bearing capacity of the soil. The findings were shared with the architectural and structural consultants to prepare the structural design of the building.



Roof floor plan







NEXT STEPS:

- **Building Plan Approval:** The consultant architect will finalize the building sanction drawings for submission to the Building Plan Approval Committee (BPAC–CPWD) to obtain the necessary building approvals.
- **Physical Model Development:** The development of a physical model of the Garden House will be commissioned as part of the design development process.
- **Tender Documentation and Contractor Selection:** The consultant architect will prepare and finalize the tender drawings and Bill of Quantities (BOQ). Tenders will subsequently be invited from multiple contractors for the construction of the Garden House.
- **Plant Selection for the Tropical Enclosure:** The consultant architect, landscape architect, and client team will visit the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Palode, Kerala, to identify and source suitable plant material for the proposed Tropical Enclosure.
- **Site Safety and Barricading:** The project site will be barricaded along the roadside to enhance safety and prevent unauthorized access.
- **Commencement of Construction:** Construction of the Garden House is expected to commence by mid-2026, following the completion of the tender evaluation and contract award process.



Sunder Nursery

18 Environment Conservation

Comprehensive horticultural maintenance was undertaken across Sunder Nursery, Humayun's Tomb, HTIC, the Admin Block, and Rahim Tomb. The scope of work included maintenance of lawns, hedges, ground covers, trees, and shrubs, along with seasonal horticultural operations such as uprooting summer annuals, sowing winter flowering annual seeds, bed preparation, sapling plantation, pruning of roses, and upkeep of rose beds.

Routine landscape care also included periodic pruning and trimming of plants, insecticide and pesticide application, and horticultural support for programmes and events conducted across the sites.

PLANTATION INITIATIVES

Large-scale plantation drives were undertaken across multiple heritage and landscape zones:

Approximately 1,800 trees and shrubs were planted in the Urban Forest area, Batashe Wala Complex, and Mound Area.
Around 800 shrubs were planted within the premises of Rahim Tomb.
Approximately 600 shrubs were planted at Humayun's Tomb.
Around 400 hedge plants were planted across various locations on site.
Approximately 180 fruit and flowering trees were planted in front of Isa Khan's Tomb and Bu Halima precincts.
Around 150 creepers were planted along the boundary wall within Sunder Nursery.

**1800 trees,
400 hedge plants,
180 fruit & flowering,
and 600 shrubs**

were planted















PLANTATION PROGRAMME

Approximately 5,000 tree and shrub saplings were propagated through cuttings, seed sowing, and other nursery techniques. These propagated plants were subsequently utilised for plantation and landscape enhancement across various project sites.
In addition, seeds from approximately 12 species of winter flowering plants were collected for seasonal propagation and future plantation cycles.

Extensive lawn development and floral landscaping works were carried out during the year. Approximately 50,000 sq. ft. of carpeting grass was planted in the Citrus Garden area to strengthen the landscape character and visitor experience of the site.
Seasonal flower bed preparation and plantation activities were also undertaken across the gardens to ensure year-round floral display and landscape continuity. Permanent MS Grills were installed in all flower beds to safeguard them and prevent the use of plastic nets annually.





VERMICOMPOSTING

Sunder Nursery has established a leaf composting unit alongside its existing vermicomposting facilities. As a result, approximately 50,000 kg of leaf compost is now available for the Sunder Nursery gardens. This initiative will benefit the environment and provide ample compost for gardening needs .

As part of ongoing sustainable landscape management practices, significant quantities of organic compost were produced in-house during the year.
These composting initiatives supported soil enrichment, sustainable gardening practices, and reduced dependence on external soil conditioners across the project sites.

16000 kg of Vermi compost
25,000 kg of Dcompost
15,000 kg of Leaf Compost





GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Comprehensive horticultural maintenance was undertaken across Sunder Nursery, Humayun's Tomb, HTIC, the Admin Block, and Rahim Tomb. The scope of work included maintenance of lawns, hedges, ground covers, trees, and shrubs, along with seasonal horticultural operations such as uprooting summer annuals, sowing winter flowering annual seeds, bed preparation, sapling plantation, pruning of roses, and upkeep of rose beds.
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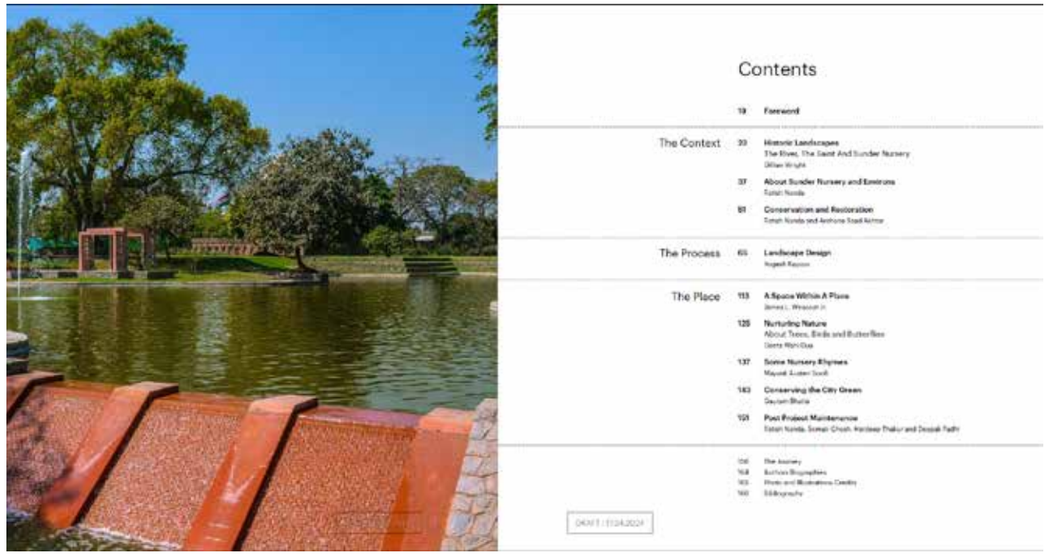
Sunder Nursery

19 Publication

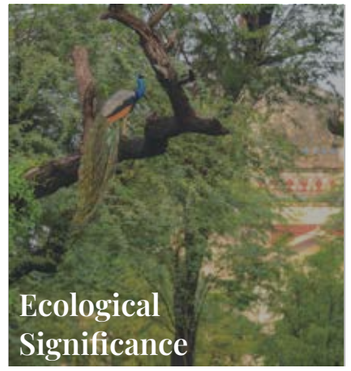
Gardens within a Garden

Sunder Nursery Heritage Park is an integral part of collective consciousness, embodying the historical, cultural, and environmental essence of the city in contemporary times. The holistic development approach, combining conservation, landscape design and horticulture, has imparted a profound and distinct sense of meaning, character, and value to the place. It has brought a strong sense of engagement with nature, which is sensitive to its historic and environmental spirit, while remaining pertinent to the demands of the present era.

The book serves as an introduction to the site and surrounding of Sunder Nursery, delving into its rich history embedded with profound natural and cultural features. It unravels the various layers of design philosophy and traces the evolution of the concept and execution, shedding light on the intricate thinking behind creation of one of the most popular public places in the capital city.



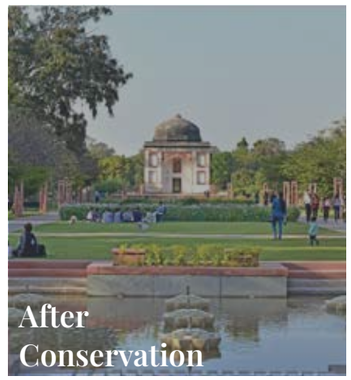

Historical Significance


Ecological Significance



Landscape Design


Before Conservation


After Conservation


Park Management

- The book contains essays by several eminent architects, historians, lanscape architects, cultural curators and documents the significance, evolution, and developemnt works carried out at Sunder Nursery. The book has been edited by landscape architect Ms Geeta Wahi Dua.
- The book is in its final stages of design development and will be published by early-2026 by MAPIN Publishing House..



Sunder Nursery

20 Open After Sunset

(Above) With Humayun's Tomb open till 9pm and Sunder Nursery till 10 pm, the area attracts a wide range of visitors to the site, especially families.

The larger historic precinct of Humayun's Tomb Complex, Sunder Nursery Park, and Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti has become a kaleidoscope of varied experience - ranging from architecture to intangible culture, and cuisine - and by opening the sites for an extended period encourages more people to access these places.

Night tourism offers a unique opportunity to experience heritage sites in a new light. Through sensitive illumination of monuments and pathways, specialized programming like star-gazing, storytelling and cultural performances, these sites reveal their architectural beauty, rich histories and timeless atmosphere after sunset. By extending visiting hours, night tourism can enhance visitor engagement, encourage cultural appreciation and create new opportunities for local communities, while ensuring the conservation and protection of these irreplaceable heritage assets.





Sunder Nursery

Open from Sunrise to 10 pm

Last entry at 9.30 pm

The decision of GSNMT to keep Sunder Nursery open after sunset provides the citizens of Delhi to come and be amidst nature and heritage an have a meaningful engagement. Prior to this, the park has been made safe for night-time experiece with elevated security measures, sensitive lighting of the monuments and of pathways and gardens.

This has resulted in over 25% of visitors to Sunder Nursery accessing the park after sunset.





Humayun's Tomb Museum

Open from 10 am to 9 pm

Last entry at 8.30 pm

With the museum fast becoming the entry point for understanding this multi-faceted historic precinct which comprises of Humayun's Tomb, Sunder Nursery and Nizamuddin, the decision to keeping it open after sunset - unlike many other museums which closes at 5-6pm **has resulted in over 14% of visitors to Sunder Nursery accessing the park after sunset.**

With a variety of additional faciltiies like auditorium, travelling exhibitions, cultural programmes and F&B spaces in the premises, the musuem courtyard and galleries provide for a culturally vibrant and engaging space for citizens.



Sunder Nursery

21 Programmes & Outreach

Diverse range of event, workshops, walks, exhibitions and activities at Sunder Nursery through the year

This year, both Sunder Nursery and Humayun's Tomb saw a steady range of activity — spanning performances, exhibitions, community programmes, and public talks.

At Sunder Nursery, the amphitheatre hosted large-scale cultural festivals through the year, while the Bazaar continued as a community-led space with seasonal editions. At Humayun's Tomb, the museum remained active with a regular concert series, a conservation talk series, and three temporary international exhibitions, with the auditorium in consistent use for related public programmes.

Across both sites, the aim has been to keep the spaces accessible and welcoming — to families, students, senior citizens, and visitors with special needs — while remaining sensitive to their heritage character.



7,000
visitors through programmming



25
Bee awareness workshops



10
Literary events



20
Workshops



16
Curated Walks



10
Cultural Events

Sunder Nursery
A Cultural Venue

WORLD DANCE DAY

From 18 to 20 April 2025, Sunder Nursery Amphitheatre hosted a three-day programme marking World Dance Day and World Heritage Day, organised by SPICMACAY in partnership with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Sudha Sangini.

The series was inaugurated in the presence of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Mansingh on 18 April, followed by Padma Bhushan Dr. Uma Sharma on 19 April, and Padma Bhushan Dr. Raja and Radha Reddy on the concluding evening.

Over the three evenings, performances included Odissi by Vidushi Madhavi Mudgal, Kuchipudi by Yamini Reddy, Mohiniyattam by Vidushi Bharati Shivaji, Manipuri, and Kathakali. The final day featured Kathak by Padma Shri Shovana Narayan, Bharatanatyam by Geeta Chandran, and Sattriya by Anwesa Mahanta. The programme brought together several classical dance forms under one setting, offering audiences three evenings of varied performances rooted in India's dance traditions.









ANANT UTSAV: A CELEBRATION OF FOLK AND TRIBAL ARTS

A three-day folk and tribal arts and crafts festival was held from 21 to 23 November 2025 at the Garden Amphitheatre, Sunder Nursery, organised by SPICMACAY in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Sudha Sangini Foundation. **The festival brought together over 140 folk and tribal performers, musicians, and craft artists from across India.**

The inaugural performance was a Nadhaswaram recital, Mangala Isai, by Shri S. Kandaswamy and Group. This was followed by Purulia Chhau by Shri Tarapada Rajak and Group, and Saraikela Chhau by Biswanath Kumbhakar, Satish Modak and Group. Day 2 opened with Baul Sangeet by Shri Lakshman Das and Group from Bengal, followed by Hojagiri by Shri Debasis Reang and Group from Tripura. The evening closed with Thang Ta and Thougal Jagoi by Dr. Nganbi Chanu and Group, representing Manipur's martial and devotional traditions.

The final evening began with Gussadi by Shri Kanaka Sudarshan and Group from Telangana, followed by Wangala dance by Ronald Rimnam and Group from Meghalaya. The festival concluded with a Qawwali performance by the Warsi Brothers from Rampur and their ensemble.

Alongside the evening programmes, a crafts corridor ran each day from late morning, with stalls set up around the amphitheatre where artists offered live demonstrations and workshops in traditional craft techniques.

10
Cultural Programmes showcasing more than 100 performers

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Sunder Nursery
Encouraging Conversations

SUITABLE CONVERSATIONS

Since 2022, Sunder Nursery has been the official venue partner for “Suitable Conversations,” a series of literary talks and discussions. These sessions bring together a diverse range of authors and thinkers, creating space for engaging and relevant conversations around literature and contemporary ideas.

Held largely on weekends and open to all, the sessions have seen consistent interest, with an average attendance of around 150 visitors per session. In 2025, five sessions were organised, including one evening edition—offering a slightly different format and experience for audiences. The collaboration continues to add to the cultural programming at Sunder Nursery, encouraging meaningful dialogue in a setting that naturally supports reflection and exchange.



SILENT BOOK CLUB

Set-up in 2019, Silent Book Club Delhi is part of a global community with over 1500 chapters in 54 countries all over the world The idea behind the book club is to read together in quiet camaraderie. People bring whatever they’re reading or want to begin reading—it could be a book, magazine, newspaper, e-book, audiobook, even a textbook. There’s no restriction on genre or format.

The first meetup at Sunder Nursery was in December 2021. Since then, every winter Silent book club host a book every month in Sunder nursery in winters. Beginning with a small of10 readers now every meet up has 50-55 people on an average with lot of regulars. In 2025 they held five meet ups at the park.



Sunder Nursery Awareness Workshops

BEE AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Sunder Nursery, in collaboration with the Golden Hive Foundation, has been dedicated to fostering a bee-friendly ecosystem through silent and sustained efforts over the years. This ongoing initiative has resulted in a remarkable transformation, where visitors can now observe social bees such as Apis dorsata (rock bee), Apis cerana (eastern honeybee), and Apis florea (dwarf bee) thriving and buzzing around the vibrant flowers of Sunder Nursery. Through conscious habitat creation, resources have been developed to ensure the peaceful coexistence of all bee species.

In 2025, a total of 20 workshops were successfully conducted in collaboration with environmental societies and colleges of Delhi University, helping to build much-needed awareness and empathy for these vital yet stressed pollinators.

A total of 423 students attended the workshops.

Regular 07 public workshops and a session for school children continue to be organized at Sunder Nursery as part of an Aga Khan Trust for Culture initiative.



WORKSHOPS & WALKS

In 2025, a range of walks and workshops were organised at Sunder Nursery, offering visitors multiple ways to engage with the space. This included Astro Camp, Musical Storytelling, Origami, Clay Relief Sculpture, Make Your Own Card, Caricature Art, Know the Bee, 3D Paper Quilling, Crochet, Calligraphy, Brush & Bloom, and Madhubani Painting. Walks ranged from STEM in the Park, Bird Walks, and Heritage & Nature Walks to thematic experiences such as Patterns in Nature, Pollinator Walks, Tree Walks, Stories of Mughal Gardens, and Mirza Ghalib ke Kisse aur Kahaniya.

Overall, 20 workshops and 16 walks were conducted during the year, all of which were well received by the public, with strong participation across age groups.

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SERIAL NO.	DATE	COLLEGE
1.	12.02.2025	Kirori Mal College
2.	13.02.2025	Dyal Singh College
3.	20.02.2025	Miranda House
4.	21.02.2025	GGSIPU
5.	25.02.2025	Kamla Nehru College
6.	26.02.2025	Shivaji College
7.	06.03.2026	Institute of Home Sciences
8.	20.03.2026	Miranda House
9.	27.03.2026	Lady Irwin College
10.	29.03.2026	Institute of Home Sciences
11.	24.09.2026	Zakir Hussain College
12.	25.09.2026	Gargi College
13.	29.09.2026	Institute Of Home Sciences
14.	30.09.2026	Dyal Singh College
15.	10.10.2026	Sri Aurobindo College
16.	08.11.2026	Department of Environmental Studies, DU
17.	09.11.2026	Hindu College
18.	10.11.2026	Hindu College
19.	12.11.2026	Sri Aurobindo College
20.	27.11.2026	Delhi College of Art and Commerce



Overall, 20 workshops and 16 walks were conducted during the year, all of which were well received by the public, with strong participation across age groups.













Fairs & Bazaars





SARAS Food Festival

The festival is part of the Ministry's National Rural Livelihoods Mission, which supports rural women in building skills around traditional food and craft.

The SARAS Aajeevika Food Festival 2025, organised by the Ministry of Rural Development, was hosted at Sunder Nursery. The festival was inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The festival brought together more than 300 women members of Self-Help Groups and entrepreneurs from 25 states across the country, participating through 62 stalls — serving food and offering natural food products. The stalls featured authentic regional cuisine alongside handcrafted goods and cultural performances. For visitors, it offered a space to experience the food, culture, and craft of 25 states in one setting.

HARIYALI TEEJ BAZAAR

Hariyali Teej Bazaar was held across two Sundays, drawing a footfall of 3,500 to 4,000 visitors. The market reflected the spirit of Sawan, traditional month of monsoon and through offerings such as mehendi, bangles, ghewar, puri-aloo, and thandai. Activities including a Sawan ka jhoola and a Rakhi-making workshop added a participatory element, making it particularly engaging for families and children.

"The Hariyali Teej Bazaar was held across two Sundays, drawing a footfall of **3,500 to 4,000 visitors.**"



DIWALI BAZAAR — 11 OCTOBER 2025

The Diwali Bazaar at Sunder Nursery had an overwhelming response, with over 7,000 visitors through the day. Floral décor, rangolis, and colourful tents transformed the space into a warm festive setting, and the market and workshops saw consistently high participation.

From hands-on workshops and a collaborative rangoli trail to storytelling by Vasudha Ahuja and folk music by Anwar Khan Langa, the day brought together culture, creativity, and community in one space. The event created an engaging, eco-conscious Diwali experience for families and visitors alike.

The social media campaign reached 134,335 accounts, generated 2,161 likes, and added 435 new followers across 8 posts, 3 reels, and 80 stories. The event also received print coverage in Hindustan Times and The Times of India.

"The Diwali Bazaar at Sunder Nursery had an overwhelming response, with over **7,000 visitors** through the day."





THE SUNDAY BAZAAR

Opened in February 2024, The Bazaar at Sunder Nursery is a community-led marketplace focused on natural and sustainable living. It brings together fresh locally grown produce, value-added foods such as chutneys and preserves, and live food experiences. It also provides a platform for young entrepreneurs and small producers to connect with a wider audience.





Programmes in Nizamuddin Basti

AKTC took a conscious decision to transition out of the direct implementation approach that it had followed till the completion of the formal MoU in July 2022. AKTC and AKF remain actively engaged as Management Trustees of the Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust, have a strong presence and a continued interest in the area.

There is an understanding that this implies continuing some interventions directly, modifying others in the changed environment and creating an institutional mechanism to ensure the continuity of the interventions carried out under the larger project. A community-based organization called the Association for Development of Nizamuddin was established as the post project management strategy.

AKTC continued to support the MCD school to strengthen the quality of education, implement the community mental health initiative while strengthening the community-based organization, the Association for Development of Nizamuddin to take on greater roles in the continued socio-economic and cultural development of Nizamuddin Basti.

The work in Nizamuddin Basti is reported under two main headings – interventions carried out directly by AKTC and work that is carried out by ADN which is an initiative of AKTC.









Improvement in the Quality of Life

Programmes directly implemented by AKTC

The quality of life is a measure used by AKDN through a Quality-of-Life Framework that measures household economy, health and education, natural and built environment, social and cultural life and voice and representation.

The Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative has worked to strengthen the urban services, create livelihood opportunities for youth and women and worked towards building creating various groups/forums for the community to come together.

The project has worked to improve outcomes in 15 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and offers a model for the Historic Urban Landscape Approach that looks at heritage as a steppingstone to improving the quality of life of the local community.



1. Education Programme

The education component of the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative has been a core intervention of the project. In the period after the completion of the MoU, it has retained its focus to support the MCD school and Govt of NCT of Delhi aanganwadis to offer quality pre-primary and primary education to the children of Nizamuddin.

The education programme has been one of the earliest interventions of the project in the community that aimed to improve the quality of life of the community. The programme has worked towards improving the quality of education offered in the school through improvement of the physical infrastructure in the primary school and aanganwadis, the classroom processes, enriched curriculum and engagement with the community.

The project is also working towards strengthening the role of the community and increasing their stake in the school and aanganwadis through regular monitoring of the activities by providing handholding support to the School Management Committee and Aanganwadi Sameeksha and Sahayata Samuh to understand their roles and responsibilities as mandated by the Right to Education Act.



Education Programme

22

Support to children in MCD School

The MCD school was offered comprehensive academic and co-curricular support to 512 students across all grades, including early-learning activities, remedial support, and foundational skill-building in key subjects. Regular reading sessions and visual arts activities further strengthened students' language development and creativity. Continuous review and planning meetings were held with teachers to improve classroom practices and ensure better learning outcomes. Engagement with the School Management Committee remained strong, leading to improved monitoring, planning of school activities, and strengthened accountability. Community participation was also enhanced through school events and children's assemblies, which encouraged student confidence, creativity, and stronger school–community relationships.



In 2025

71 Nursery and KG students

were provided learning support by the community teachers.

Academic learning support to Nursery/ KG Students:

A total of 71 Nursery and KG students received learning support from community teachers. The sessions focused on strengthening physical, language, social, and emotional development through age-appropriate activities such as play-based learning, storytelling, group interactions, and creative tasks. This helped build a strong foundation for their overall growth and readiness for formal schooling.

In 2025

10 monthly meetings

were organized for the school and community teachers to develop lesson plans and teaching learning materials for direct learning support.

Review and planning with community teachers

- A total of ten monthly review and planning meetings were conducted with the MCD school and community teachers. These sessions focused on developing lesson plans and creating teaching–learning materials to strengthen the quality of direct learning support provided to students. The meetings also helped track progress, address challenges, and ensure better coordination among the teachers.



In 2025

A total of 145 students

were supported by community teachers in Hindi language and Mathematics during the last two years

512 students, benefitted from regular reading activities by the community teachers

Academic learning support to the Primary school students:

- Remedial classes were provided to 145 students from classes 3 to 5 who were identified as having age-inappropriate learning levels compared to their peers. These students received focused learning support from community teachers in Hindi language and Mathematics, helping them strengthen basic concepts, improve reading and writing skills, and build confidence in their academic abilities. This targeted intervention aimed to bridge learning gaps and bring the students closer to the expected grade-level competencies.
- A total of 137 students from classes 1 and 2 received academic support from community teachers in the period under review. The teachers helped the children strengthen their Hindi language and Mathematics skills through regular practice, activity-based learning, and personalized guidance. This support helped the young learners build strong foundational skills and improve their overall classroom performance.
- All 512 students from the school participated in regular reading activities conducted by community teachers. The teachers engaged children using a wide range of library books through storytelling, story-listening, read-aloud sessions, story illustration, and creative writing. These activities helped improve their reading habits and overall language skills.
- In addition, visual arts classes were held regularly for all the 512 students, giving them opportunities to explore drawing, painting, and other creative art activities that supported self-expression and artistic development.



• Engagement with the community:

- A total of 11 SMC meetings were held with 16 SMC members that includes school principal, schoolteachers, representative of MCD councillor, parents of students and representatives from ADN (Association for Development of Nizamuddin). These meetings focused on strengthening the committee's capacity, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and planning key school activities such as special events, the summer camp, and the sports meet. Members also worked together to complete school observation and monitoring tools and prepare report cards.
- As a result of this process, four report cards were compiled with support from ADN and submitted by the SMC to the MCD officials and the local councillor, ensuring regular monitoring and improved accountability in school functioning.
- Additionally, two national-day celebrations were organized with the support of the SMC and ADN. Both events saw enthusiastic participation, with over 100 parents attending, strengthening the connection between the school and the community.
- A total of 20 Balsabhas (children's assemblies) were conducted in the school, providing students with regular opportunities to showcase their talents and participate in performances. These assemblies helped build confidence, encourage creativity, and promote active student engagement. These Balsabhas are always attended by parents of the students.

NEXT STEPS :

- Learning support for pre-primary students and remedial support for students in classes 3-5 will continue.
- Visual arts and reading activity workshops will continue to create a positive learning environment and enrich the curriculum.
- Computer classes will be reinitiated next year to further enrich the curriculum.
- Monthly meetings with SMC and ADN members will continue to ensure the effective functioning of the school.
- School monitoring will continue by SMC members with the support of ADN.
- The organization of Balsabhas and special events will continue.



II

Health Programme

The interventions in health included both clinical and community health components. Both these components were very central to the Nizamuddin project. The community health team played a critical role in supporting the community's health needs since 2012 with a special focus on maternal and child health. The covid years of 2021 and 2022 saw the community health team rise to the challenge of allaying fears, clarifying myths in the community and helping provide tangible support in terms of assisting pregnant women access health care and distribution of dry ration kits to needy families.

The community health initiative had led to a deeper engagement with the community. The Shrine of Hazrat Nizamuddin and the associated faith healers have always been a draw for people seeking solace. Many of these are people with mental health conditions. In addition, mental health conditions were practically unaddressed in the Basti. They were coming to our notice during our work in community health but we were not equipped to address them.

They aggravated further during covid times. Our experience in the community health programme and the subsequent changes in health practices and health seeking behaviour led to an intervention in community mental health.

With the support of the Indira Foundation, we initiated a community mental health programme in February 2023.

Further, the Mohalla Health and Sanitation Committee that were formed under the project along with the support of the Association for Development of Nizamuddin continued to work with the community in identifying issues and advocating for their redressal with the concerned government agency.



Health

23 Community Mental Health

Demonstration of a relaxing body technique

Supported by:

Indira Foundation

The Community Mental Health (CMH) Program was launched in Nizamuddin Basti in February 2023 to tackle six key mental and neurological disorders—anxiety, depression, psychosis, epilepsy, dementia, and intellectual disability—with the goal of reducing the treatment gap by at least 50%. The program aims to train frontline Community Health Workers (CHWs), enhance mental health literacy within the community, foster an environment that encourages care-seeking behaviour, and provide mental health care services at the community level. These services will be delivered according to the severity of distress and the presence of diagnosable conditions, following an incremental stepped care approach. Over the course of three years, the programme proposed to conduct door-to-door screenings for at least 8,640 individuals, providing a standardized mental health literacy package during the screening. Additionally, the Mental Health Literacy (MHL) initiatives aimed to raise awareness of the six mental health disorders within community groups.

ACTION TAKEN:

In 2025, a total of nine full days of training were conducted to enhance the team's understanding of key psychological concepts. The topics included: the role of self in therapeutic work, emotional impact of blurred professional boundaries, emotional burden on frontline workers, genogram use, importance of body-based self-care, window of tolerance (for both self and clients), personal self-care mapping, self-care techniques, transference and countertransference, among others.

Case discussions were also held to identify obstacles, intervention strategies, and best practices. Pre- and post-tests were administered for each session to assess learning outcomes.

- In 2025, a total of 53 clinical reviews were conducted by both a psychiatrist and a psychologist.
- A total of 62 Mental Health Literacy (MHL) sessions were conducted, reaching 934 community members.
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) were trained to use WHO-recommended mental health screening tools, including the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10), Mini-Mental State Examination, Modified International Pilot Study of Schizophrenia (IPSS), and Camberwell Assessment of Need. All tools were reviewed, adapted to local context, and translated into Hindi.
- A total of 8703 individuals have been screened till 2025 using K10 and IPSS. Of these, 990 clients were identified: 938 with psychological distress, 20 with severe mental disorders, 2 with alcohol use disorder, 2 with dementia, 8 with epilepsy, and 20 with intellectual disabilities. The CHWs conducted 1,960 client sessions and 406 follow-up sessions for individuals with chronic conditions. Of the 990 clients, a total of 803 clients completed the prescribed care package and were discharged; 22 clients were lost to follow-up, and 15 refused further treatment. Interventions will be done with the remaining 150 clients in the subsequent months.



In 2025, a total of 53 clinical reviews were conducted by both a psychiatrist and a psychologist.



Friday Fun activity for community members to promote mental well being.

NEXT STEPS :

- Continue door-to-door screening to identify individuals experiencing mental health distress.
- Maintain regular clinical reviews with the psychiatrist and psychologist to support ongoing peer learning.
- Provide continued support to clients and families affected by mental health conditions.
- Continue conducting MHL sessions with identified community groups.
- Facilitate linkage of individuals with intellectual disabilities to relevant government departments for eligibility verification, disability certificates, pensions, and access to formal and vocational education.
- Organise regular therapeutic group activities, 'Fun Friday' for clients and staff.
- Host a community event for individuals with mental health conditions and their families to foster support networks and reduce stigma, promoting mental health as integral to overall well-being.



III
Livelihood

The vocational education and livelihoods components have been working towards improving individual and thereby family incomes. This was an essential intervention as the 2008 Quality of Life Survey had indicated that only 1% of the youth had access to any kind of skill training making it very difficult for them to secure dignified jobs in the organized sector, further, only 9% of women were part of the workforce.

The project strategy has been to improve the overall quality of lives by improving the urban services of health, education and sanitation that reduce family expenditure while the livelihoods component work towards increasing family incomes.

This programme promotes two women's enterprises that showcase the craft and cuisine of Nizamuddin i.e., Insha-e-Noor and Zaika-e-Nizamuddin.

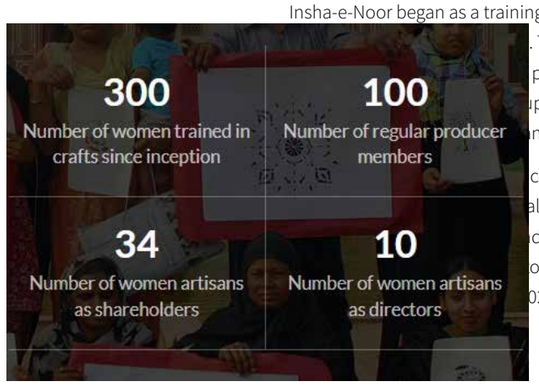


WOMEN LIVELIHOOD

24 Insha-e-Noor

Insha-e-Noor (IeN) was initiated in response to the low workforce participation rate of women, which was only 9% in 2008 i.e., most of the women in the community depended on their husbands/ family members for their requirements; with a monthly family income of Rs 9500 and an average family size of 5.75 this meant that the economic situation of the family was fragile. This combined with limited mobility of women, particularly older women and low formal education levels suggested home based occupation for women.

Insha-e-Noor began as a training centre to engage with women and is now a registered producer . The IeN brand comprises paper and textile products using the skills paper), crochet, aari embroidery. Garment construction and the upport the finishing of products as well as take on orders from design nd are hand crafted by women of Nizamuddin Basti.



cer company with 34 shareholders and 10 directors. It is growing in ll its expenses, barring professional support independently. d the total revenue in 2023 was reduced to Rs. 25,87,858; after o new customers, IeN was able to increase its turnover by 79%, 025 it was Rs 53,41,111.



ACTION TAKEN:

- IeN was able to increase its turnover by 15.20%, reaching Rs. 53,41,111.
- IeN has almost 100 members and they work depending upon the orders received, their need and the time that they are able to give to the work. In 2025, a total of Rs. 15,89,043, accounting for 30 % of the total sales, was disbursed directly among 56 members as their making charges. The average annual wages increased by 12% and became Rs. 28,375 and more than half the members have received at least Rs.20,000 as annual wages. 7 members have received Rs. 55,000 annual wages. The wage earned by members have a wide range from Rs 1005 per month Rs 16,860 per month.
- The number of long-term clients grew to 27 in 2025, ensuring a steady flow of business. This was in addition to its existing regular clients of Indigene, Rangsutra and Fab India.
- Delivered 500 lamps order to Fabindia for Rs. 5,40,000/- and 1135 aprons to Centre for Microfinance, Jaipur for Rs. 6,37,965.
- IeN continued to participate in The Bazaar market hosted by Sunder Nursery as well as other regular exhibitions and fairs making its presence felt in these spaces. In 2024 IeN participated in four exhibitions and conducted in 7 workshops mainly on Aari and Sanjhi.
- The Insha-e-Noor Kiosk which has been positioned in Sunder Nursery, did a business of Rs. 7,90,939 in 2025 an increase of almost 25% from last year.

Exhibitions:

- Bharat Parv
- Basant Bazaar (Dastkar)
- Hariyali Teej exhibition (Nizamuddin East)
- Festival of Lights (Dastkar)
- Deloitte - Cyber city office for Diwali event
- Blind School Diwali Mela

Workshops:

- Sardar Patel School - Sanjhi
- Sardar Patel School - Aari
- Sunder Nursery - Sanjhi & Aari
- Sunder Nursery - Crochet
- Bookaroo - Sanjhi Workshop
- No footprints - Sanjhi

NEXT STEPS :

- The group will focus on adding members.
- Better financial management and marketing to achieve business targets.



WOMEN LIVELIHOOD

25 Zaika E Nizamuddin

Zaika-e-Nizamuddin Foods LLP has been able to generate enough business to be in profit for the past two years and be able to share the profit among its 11 partners.

Zaika-e-Nizamuddin (ZeN) is a women's enterprise comprising the local chefs promoting the micro-cuisine of Nizamuddin. It began as a response to malnourishment in children in Nizamuddin and a finding that junk snacks contributed significantly to the poor nutritional status of children.

A group of young mothers were organised in 2012, under the health and early childhood care and development component, to produce low-cost nutritious snacks to address malnourishment in young children in Nizamuddin.

ZeN has been active as a functioning group since 2015 and now has a wide product repertoire including nutritious snacks and the cuisine of Nizamuddin. It offers home delivery, catering services and live counters for gatherings. It has a regular presence in Sunder Nursery on through the weekend market and a food truck.

ZeN is an evolving enterprise learning and growing with the wide experience that they now have. Its strategic location gives them the opportunity to interact with a wide range of clientele helping them develop strategies to cater to their growing popularity. They have been successful in creating a loyal customer base.

They have been able to generate enough business to be in profit for the past three years and be able to share the profit among the shareholders. Their turnover for the period January to December 2025 was Rs 53,38,925.





ACTION TAKEN:

- Zaika-e-Nizamuddin Foods LLP has been able to generate enough business to be in profit for the past three years and be able to share the profit among its 11 partners. The enterprise's turnover and profit percentage was Rs 56,03,403 and 9.33% in FY 2023-24 and Rs 61,05,069/- and 6.57% in FY 2024-25. 50% of the stated profit was given to the partners as dividends in proportion to their work contribution and the other 50% was added to their share capital equally.
- The ZeN chefs represented their indigenous cuisine in the RagBag Performance Festival at the Kerala Arts and Crafts Village - a dynamic six-day celebration that brings together a diverse array of performance art, craft, food, and ideas in Kovalam, Kerala, in January 2025. Zaika-e-Nizamuddin was one of the chefs in the RagBag Feast- a food assemblage merging rich heritage and contemporary thinking.
- ZeN collaborated with Forgotten Feasts – an event where the walk leader explored the early Mughals and especially what they ate. The ZeN chef collaborated with the historians to interpret the recipes from sources as varied as Baburnama, Humayunama, Joher's Memoirs, Akbarnama, Ain-i Akbari, Jahangirnama and Jahangir's Alwan-e Nemat through dinners offered in the heart of Sunder Nursery.
- The group also showcased their food through various exhibitions throughout 2023 and 2024 including Kathakar festival, The Bazaar – the weekly market at Sunder Nursery and more.
- The group continued to market and sell their cuisine through regular avenues including the Sunder Nursery Food Kiosk, catering events, and home delivery. Some of the large orders that they executed successfully were for Interglobe Hotel Pvt Ltd, Interglobe Foundation, Mobile Creches, Li and Fung among others.

NEXT STEPS :

- Review strategy and business plans to optimise the business.





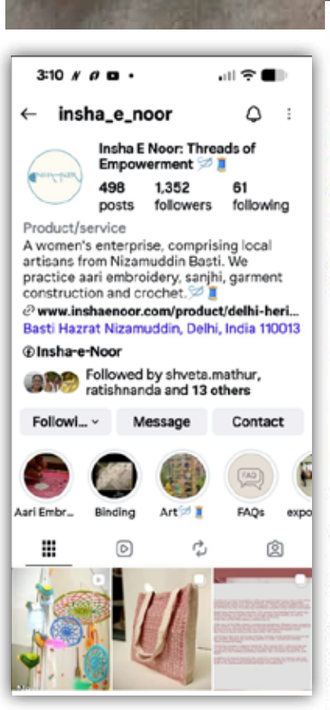









Meet Our Artisans


3:10
insha_e_noor
Insha E Noor: Threads of Empowerment
498 posts
1,352 followers
61 following
Product/service
A women's enterprise, comprising local artisans from Nizamuddin Basti. We practice aari embroidery, sanjhi, garment construction and crochet.
www.inshaenoor.com/product/delhi-heri...
Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi, India 110013
Insha-e-Noor
Followed by shveta.mathur, ratishnanda and 13 others
Followi...
Message
Contact
Aari Embr...
Binding
Art
FAQs


History served hot at Sunder Nursery: Dining on 16th century cuisine
Pehle toh jab humne recipes suni, humein laga logo ko pasand ayega bhi ya nahi – bina mirch, tamatar ka khana. Humein lagta tha ki Mughlai khana toh qorma hai, lekin aisa nahi hai
- Fatima, a cook with Zaika-e-Nizamuddin
Shivika Manchanda
'MANY VEGETARIAN EQUIVALENTS OF CORE NON-VEGETARIAN DISHES ENTERED THE KITCHENS DURING AKBAR'S TIME'
'JAHANGIR AND HIS WIFE NUR JAHAN LOVED HOSTING PARTIES'

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
(AKDN)

↓

AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE
(AKTC)

↓

HISTORIC CITIES PROGRAMME
(HCP / AHCP)

↓

NIZAMUDDIN URBAN RENEWAL INITIATIVE
(NURI)

↓

ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR NIZAMUDDIN
(ADN)



Post-Project Management: Association for Development of Nizamuddin

26 Association for Development of Nizamuddin (ADN)



Supported by:

Azim Premji FAoundation

(2022- June 2025)

There has been a change in the nature of the interventions in Nizamuddin Basti. This was a conscious decision taken by the AKTC as a responsible way of transitioning from the direct implementation approach that it had been following since 2007.

The approach from 2007 to 2022 was to directly implement interventions in Nizamuddin Basti to improve the quality of life of the community. These were done in partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the community under the larger Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative. These included interventions to improve and strengthen the services (*where needed*) of the Government of Delhi aanganwadis, MCD school, MCD clinic, MCD toilet complexes, MCD parks and streets. Interventions included improvement of the physical infrastructure, services, equipment, management of the facility and engagement with the community.

AKTC began its transition process, well before the end of the period of the MoU as we felt it was necessary to put systems in place to ensure the continuity of the interventions undertaken during the project. The project had aimed not just to improve the quality of life of the community but also to enhance the capacities of community representatives and those engaged with us to address challenges/problems faced by the community. This was done by initiating the process of setting up a community-based organisation and finally initiating a community-based organisation called the Association for Development for Nizamuddin (ADN).

ADN has been initiated drawing from the members from groups created under the project. Most of these individuals have been engaged with the project and have the advantage of being part of the development process and have strong links with the larger community. They have also gone through significant capacity enhancement processes and are experienced in the implementation of structured development interventions.

In addition, the ADN members have undergone a series of workshops with a senior organisation development professional to understand how organisations work and to help them grow as an organisation who can help with the continued social, economic and cultural development of Nizamuddin Basti.

ADN has emerged as a group that is gradually making its presence felt through its actions in the community.

Community & Government Engagement Activities carried out by Association for Development for Nizamuddin (ADN):

S. No.	Activity	No. of meetings/ submissions
	School Management Commiittee	10
	Mohalla Health and Sanitation Commiittee	60
	Aanganwadi Avalokan Sahayata Samooh	2
	Structured program- Parenting	85
	Structured program- Adolescent	83
	Supplimentary Nutrition Program	12
	Sehat Sahayata Samooh	17
	Rehmat Nigrani Samooh	12
	Awareness drives	8
	Community Events	3
	Organizational DevelopmentTraining	1
	Letters submitted to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)	37
	Letters submitted to Delhi Jal Board	14
	Letters submitted to Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD)	1
	Letters submitted to Delhi Police	2
	Letters submitted to Elected Representatives (CM, MLA, Councillor)	10
	Report submitted about the Work in the aanganwadis to DWCD	1
	Park and street monitoring report submitted to MCD	24
	Park monitoring report submitted to Elected Representatives(Councillor)	12

- Total meetings 292
- Total letters submitted 64
- Reports submitted to the Government Agencies 37

27 Community Based Monitoring

The Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative worked with the community and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Department of Women and Child Development to strengthen the urban services in education, health, sanitation and open spaces that included parks and streets. The project also initiated a waste management system in the community on a pay and use basis.

The project has followed a strategy of strengthening the government services and forging/improving a link between the community and the concerned government department – so that there is relationship between the delivery system (government) and the demand system (community) with an understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Since the project had worked with the government agencies and the community to create and strengthen the infrastructure, our understanding was that one key strategy to maintain the urban services would be if the community could monitor the functioning of the government services and work simultaneously with the community members and the government departments to ensure the continuity of the services and their quality.

It is to ensure the continued development of Nizamuddin Basti that the ADN was initiated as a post project management strategy. One of the major strategies that they follow is community-based monitoring of urban services.



Education

ADN engaged in the summer camp at the MCD school

Association for Development for Nizamuddin (ADN) consistently supported the school and community by coordinating and facilitating key events, meetings, and student-engagement programs throughout the year, ensuring smooth implementation and active participation across stakeholders. ADN's regular involvement in school processes contributed to improved coordination, stronger community linkages, and better overall management of the school. Along with the SMC members, ADN also monitors the school's functioning and its ongoing activities to ensure effective operations and timely resolution of issues.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Association for Development for Nizamuddin (ADN) is a member of the School Management Committee and all the other community forums. The regular connect and flow of information has strengthened the connection between the school and the community and ensured active community involvement in school events and programmes throughout the year.
- ADN members supported in the celebration of the Republic Day, which was attended by around 300 children and 100 parents.
- ADN also supported the "Bring Your Grandparents" initiative, a pilot program conducted across all MCD schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to celebrate Grandparents' Day and promote intergenerational bonding. The event at the school was attended by 100 grandparents, and ADN played a key role in planning and facilitating the programme.
- The MCD primary school and the SMC appreciated the ADN for their proactive support in strengthening school–community engagement and contributing to the smooth implementation of various school activities and events.

NEXT STEPS :

- Will continue work closely with the MCD co-ed primary school to strengthen the existing SMC
- ADN to actively take up and support the members and teachers in issues raised during the SMC meetings
- Actively engage in the events and programmes of the school.

Working with Government Agencies

ADN supported the school when it faced a major water crisis in August and September, leaving the school without water for almost 30 days, through citizen advocacy and working with the SMC. ADN, as part of the SMC, reached out to the MCD Education Department and the Delhi Jal Board to seek immediate action. Through continuous public advocacy and coordinated efforts by the school team, the SMC, and ADN, the issue was successfully resolved in September.



Working with Teachers

ADN works as a bridge between the community and the school through its membership in the SMC and the other community groups – this has helped to keep both the community and the school management well informed and engaged.



Working with Students

- ADN actively supported the 30 days summer camp organized in May and June by mobilising the parents of the students, ensuring students attendance, and supported the community teachers in conducting group activities that are assigned to them.
- Children's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, with active involvement from ADN, schoolteachers, the community, and SMC members at the women and child park. A total of 350 children participated in the day's activities.



Working with Parents

ADN collaborated with the school, community members, and teachers for celebrating Independence Day in the MCD school. The celebration saw participation from 300 children and 100 community members.





Early Childhood Care

(Above) Demonstration session in the Aanganwadi

Aanganwadi activities are primarily carried out by the aanganwadi workers. ADN complements their efforts by organizing additional activities such as art and craft workshops, preventive mental health activities, infrastructure improvement initiatives, and other supportive engagements to improve the school readiness of children enrolled in the aanganwadi centres.

This relationship is through an MoU between the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and ADN.

ACTION TAKEN:

- The Department of Women and Child Development granted permission to ADN in December 2024 to support the pre-school education in the seven Aanganwadis.
- Between January 2025 and mid-April 2025, ADN conducted 44 pre-school classes across various aanganwadis and two ECCD days were celebrated. These sessions focused on developing children's language, cognitive, physical, and emotional skills. Each of the seven aanganwadis was covered once a week, and approximately 100 children benefitted from these classes.
- In April 2025, the DWCD paused ADN's permission to work in the aanganwadis due to a misunderstanding. The team followed up multiple times, held meetings with Directors and Deputy Directors, and resubmitted the proposal. After these follow-ups and site visits, the department reinstated permission in the end of October 2025, and ADN has now resumed its activities in early November 2025.
- In the new proposal, ADN planned to conduct weekly art and craft workshops for children and provide infrastructure support for establishing a demonstration centre. Between November and December, around 25 pre-school sessions and two ECCD Day celebrations were conducted.
- ADN developed a set of activities to address preventive mental health activities for preschool children. This included identifying and naming the six basic emotions—happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust, and fear—to help children recognize and express their feelings in a healthy manner. So far, six sessions have been conducted, reaching 63 children.







NEXT STEPS :

- Support the preschool education in the seven aanganwadis by the enriching the curriculum through art and craft and emotional literacy.
- Ensure community engagement through- Aanganwadi Sameeksha Sahayata Samooh (ASSS)- A group comprising of parents of children enrolled in the aanganwadis in consultation with the aanganwadi workers and supervisor
- Monthly celebration of ECCD day involving the aanganwadi children.
- Identification and training of new ASSS members.
- Infrastructure support at one demonstration centre, and continue the preventive mental health activities in the school.







Health

Structured programmes undertaken by health team; parenting, (for maternal and child care) adolescent program (life-skill).

ADN plays a key role in strengthening health services within Nizamuddin. The ADN team regularly monitors the local health facilities and conducts awareness programs to educate residents on important health practices and available services. In addition, the team disseminates information on immunization schedules, encourages timely vaccinations, and supports community members by providing referrals to hospitals and other healthcare institutions whenever needed. Through these initiatives, ADN helps improve overall health awareness and access to essential services.

ACTION TAKEN:

- ADN members conduct monthly visits to the MCD polyclinic to understand the issues related to its services and raise concerns with authorities for resolving issues.
- Nine awareness drives were conducted during the last two years, in collaboration with the MCD's Public Health Department to raise awareness about Dengue and Malaria.
- Fifty-five Mohalla Health Sanitation Committee (MHSC) meetings were held in the Basti at 5 different clusters. The issues related to the specific mohalla such as water line, cleanliness, health services, waste collection, electricity, etc. are discussed in these meetings. Each meeting was attended by approximately 20 community members in each of the Mohallas.
- Referral pathways were identified by ADN members and links established with government, non -government and private institutions for healthcare services. A total of 105 people was identified and linked with different government and non-government institutions for healthcare services at free or discounted rates.
- A total of 822 children were mobilized by ADN and immunized at aanganwadi centres.
- Sixteen meetings conducted by Sehat Sahayta Samooh (SSS). A total of 11 people were given loans amounting to Rs. 1,76,000/- from SSS out of which Rs. 61,400 has been returned. There are currently 55 members in the group.
- SSS held elections in July for three key positions—President, Treasurer, and Secretary—as well as for 14 core committee members.
- A total of 79 sessions were conducted by the ADN trained members for the adolescent citizenship programme, benefiting 88 adolescents.
- A total of 75 parenting sessions were conducted by the ADN members for 172 caregivers of children.
- A total of 11 sessions on child nutrition conducted with 170 young mothers and women in the Basti.
- Three members of ADN supported the mental health team in mobilisation of the community, screening using mental health tools, and in the MH literacy sessions.



Parenting Programme

NEXT STEPS :

- ADN to continue monitoring the polyclinic and the Mohalla clinic in the Basti.
- ADN will continue conducting the structured awareness programme with new groups.
- More members will be mobilized to become members of Sehat Sahayta Samooh.
- The support to the referral services for the patients will continue.



Cleaner cleaning the community toilet

Sanitation

ADN is working directly in the sanitation programme by managing the community toilets with the Rehmat Nigrani Samooh which is a member of the ADN. The intervention comprises managing the two community-public toilets and engagement with the MCD and the community to ensure that the toilets continue to run smoothly as about 15% of the households do not have in-house toilets or inadequate sanitation facilities for the family and to meet the sanitation needs of the visiting pilgrims.

ACTION TAKEN:

- ADN is responsible for the upkeep and management of the two public-community toilets in Nizamuddin Basti, ensuring they remain clean, functional, and accessible. Any maintenance, repairs, or operational issues related to these facilities are promptly addressed by the ADN team with support from AKTC.
- The two public-community toilets are maintained and managed by ADN along with the Rehmat Nigrani Samooh members. Every day the toilets are accessed by approximately 350 users. During the Urs and Moharam additionally 10000 pilgrims used the toilets.
- Monitoring visits by the ADN team of the CTC are conducted daily.
- During the last one year a total of 29 meetings (12 monthly and 17 emergency meetings), were conducted with RNS members on the maintenance of CTC, duty allocation to cleaners, user fee collection and dispute/crisis management.
- RNS members are maintaining CTC accounts, stocks, expenditure data on regular basis by themselves with the support from ADN staff. During the last one year the user fee collection was Rs 597,695/-.

NEXT STEPS :

- Regular monitoring visits will be done by the ADN team to ensure efficient functioning.
- Awareness drives will be conducted along with the CTC cleaners and Waste collectors on cleanliness of the basti and proper maintenance of the community toilet complexes.
- A workshop will be planned with the sanitation workers.



Open Spaces – Parks & Streets

The project has developed the landscaping of the parks in Nizamuddin based on their specific usage: the outer park is designed for community events and sports activities; a smaller park, known as the Women and Children's Park, provides a safe space for women and children to engage and spend time; and the Central Park, located in the heart of the basti, serves as a tranquil space for residents to relax and features plantation areas.

The streets were mapped and repaired by the MCD after a mapping exercise by AKTC; AKTC provided the design and supervision of the reconstruction of the streets that were designed to be long lasting and tiles that could be removed for underground repairs and replaced.

ACTION TAKEN:

- ADN works to keep the parks and streets in the basti clean by regularly monitoring their condition and reporting any issues to the MCD. The team also supports the MCD in addressing these concerns to maintain a clean and healthy environment for the community.
- Twelve Park and street monitoring audit reports were submitted to the MCD Horticulture department monthly during the last two years.
- Continuous advocacy is undertaken with DJB, MCD staff and MCD councillor to keep the Basti clean.
- One plantation drives were conducted with the support of MCD horticulture department, school, polyclinic, Delhi police and the community members.

NEXT STEPS :

- ADN will continue to support all the above mentioned activities.
- The central park and women's park are planned to be renovated. ADN will play role in being the link with the community.



Waste Management

A door-to-door pay and use waste collection system was initiated by AKTC under the project in 2010. It is now managed by ADN, a regular meeting with adn members

Organised waste management as a pay-and-use service became operational over 10 years ago in Nizamuddin. This was also a key expressed need by the community in the initial Quality of Life survey of 2008. With the MCD not playing a role in domestic solid waste management in Nizamuddin, ADN decided to take on the role of executing this function that had been executed by AKTC with the support of the community. ADN has been managing this function for over three years now and has been able to manage this transition with a high degree of success. The waste management programme has evolved, with waste collectors now being trained to collect user fee- whereas earlier, they were paid a salary by AKTC.

A door-to-door pay and use waste collection system was initiated by AKTC under the project in 2010. It is now managed by ADN. It with nine waste collectors responsible for collecting waste directly from households. ADN oversees the smooth functioning of this system by addressing any issues related to the maintenance of collection vehicles and resolving challenges that arise during the collection process. The waste management programme has also become one of catalysts encouraging the community members to become members of ADN.





Waste collectors collecting waste from the community

ACTION TAKEN:

- 1530 Households covered under the organized waste collection program. The community contribution for this initiative is Rs. 10,92,930 during the last one year.
- A total of 12 monthly meetings were conducted with the waste collectors by RNS and ADN members. These meetings are mainly aimed at resolving the challenges and issues that the waste collectors face at the field level.
- During the last two years, 12 audit reports compiled by ADN members related to the cleanliness of streets and open spaces were submitted to the MCD sanitation department.

NEXT STEPS :

- Engage community members in the Rehmat Nigrani Samooh meetings, where waste collectors address the challenges, they encounter during waste collection. This could also serve as a platform for fostering connection between the community and waste collectors.
- Organize drives in collaboration with MCD, also including the waste collectors and CTC cleaners to address waste generated in households and the health issues arising from improper waste management. A workshop will be planned with the waste collectors.





28 Community Engagement

Community engagement is a key focus of ADN's work, as all initiatives are aimed at benefiting Nizamuddin Basti, and it is essential for residents to be aware of and actively participate in them. To foster this, ADN organizes various meetings and events at regular intervals, throughout the year, bringing the community together and encouraging collective involvement.

ACTION TAKEN:

- One large community meeting conducted by ADN where over 100 members participated and were oriented on the objectives of ADN, its work and process of membership.
- One cricket tournament was organized in December 2025, with the adolescents and youth in the basti. This was also planned to engage more men into the initiatives of ADN.
- Women's day was celebrated in March 2025 in which 300 women and children participated enthusiastically in the event. Stalls were put up by the women of the Basti selling various accessories and delicacies.
- One nala side awareness drive was held in December in collaboration with the MCD and the children of the mcd school. It was joined by the other members of the community especially by those living near the nala.

NEXT STEPS :

- Continue to organize events with greater male participation.
- Revaluate and plan community events, incorporating suggestions from the community as well.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi | Delhi Jal Board | SOS Children's village | International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

29 Partnerships with other organizations

A key premise on the initiation of the Association for Development of Nizamuddin was the need to partner with government departments and other civil society organizations to fulfill the objectives of the continued social, economic and cultural development of Nizamuddin; the ADN does not, apart from the waste management programme does not implement any programme directly but rather focusses its efforts on leveraging government resources and entering into partnership with other relevant agencies. ADN helps to form a bridge between the community and other government and non-government agencies.

ADN is a community-based organisation and to meet its objectives it needs to collaborate with a range of government and non-government organizations to ensure that community have proper access to essential services and support.

ACTION TAKEN:

- **Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) –** ADN in collaboration with MCD conducted awareness drive on public health issues like dengue, malaria and waste management in Nizamuddin Basti. Further ADN monitors the nullah side, street, parks and community toilet and time to time shares report on the monitoring to the MCD councillor and the relevant departments. Plantation drive also conducted in the open spaces in collaboration with horticulture department of MCD.
- **Delhi Jal Board –** ADN works closely with Delhi Jal board and identifying issues related to Nala side, sewage problems and issues related to drinking water. Most of the issues that are identified in MHSC meetings are raised with DJB and are resolved.
- **SOS children's village –** SOS conducted sessions with adolescents to introduce various courses that includes data entry, web designing, retail associate training, and graphic design. ADN supported the effort by mobilizing adolescents from the structured awareness program batches. Several adolescents enrolled in these courses following the session.
- **International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease-** A TB detection camp, organised by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, was held in Nizamuddin in November. ADN supported the initiative by mobilising nearly 300 community members through focused awareness efforts.

NEXT STEPS :

- Other potential collaborations with both government and non-government organizations will be explored for the continued social-economic and cultural development of Nizamuddin.









30 Capacity Enhancement

The Association for Development of Nizamuddin (ADN) comprises members from the community who have been part of the groups initiated under the project or team members of the implementing team of the project. While they possess rich and diverse experience in implementing a multi-input area development programme, they need further support in envisioning the long-term development of the Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin. Therefore, ADN was initiated with the understanding that while it would function with an increasing degree of independence, it would be handheld as it grew by the AKTC team and benefit from their experience.

ADN recognizes the need for continued learning and support in certain areas and is committed to growth through targeted workshops and capacity-building opportunities.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A two - day workshop was done on organizational development. This was a consolidation of all the work that had happened over the past three years. This was a reflective process that included taking stock of where ADN is, identify criteria for assessing the current situation that included test of independence, selection of issues, conflict resolution, impact on Basti among others. This workshop also mapped ADN's relationship with key government departments and the community.

NEXT STEPS :

- Trainings on communication and documentation will be organized.
- Trainings on latest government schemes will be planned.
- Trainings on accounts and finance will be conducted.
- A Workshop on advocacy will be conducted.
- Organization Development workshop will be continued as per need.



Public Agencies

Archaeological Survey of India

Mr. Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General

Mr. Anand Madhukar, Additional Director General

Mr. Janhwij Sharma, Additional Director General (Conservation)

Dr S K Manjul, Additional Director General (Archaeology, Iconic Sites)

Mr. T. J. Alone, Additional Director General (Archaeology)

Mr. Madan Singh Chauhan, Joint Director General (World Heritage)

Dr. K. Lourdusamy, Joint Director General

Dr. Nandini Bhattacharya Sahu, Joint Director General (Monument-I)

Dr. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Joint Director General

(Antiquity, Coordination)

Dr. Anil Tiwari, Joint Director General

Dr. Arvin Manjul, Joint Director General

(Exploration, Excavation)

Dr. Madhulika Samanta, Joint Director General

(Archaeology)

Dr. Vasant Kr. Swarnkar, Director (Museum, NCF)

Dr Niraj Kumar Sinha, Former Director (Museums)

Mr. Zulfequar Ali, Director (Monument -II)

Mr Sunder Paul, Director (Conservation)

Dr. R K Patel, Superintending Archaeologist, Delhi Circle

Mr. Rohit Kumar, Sr. Conservation Assistant, Humayun's Mausoleum

Mr. Nadeem, Conservation Assistant, Humayun's Mausoleum

Central Public Works Department

Mr. Satinder Pal Singh, Director General

Mr. Rajesh Banga, Additional Director General (W)

Mr. Sanjeet Singh Dagar, Deputy Director General (Horticulture)

Mr. P K Tripathi, Former Deputy Director General (Horticulture)

Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Chief Architect (RD)

Mr. Umesh Bansal, Chief Engineer (NDZ-1)

Mr. Vikram Pant, Superintending Engineer (Vigyan Bhawan)



Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Mr. Ashwani Kumar, Commissioner, MCD

Ms. Sarika Chaudhri, Municipal Councillor, Delhi

Mr. Shashvat Saurabh, Deputy Commissioner Central Zone

Mr. Sanjeev Mittal Additional Commissioner, Civic Center

Dr. Pankaj Naresh Aggarwal, Former Additional Commissioner, Civic Center

Mr. Angel Bhati Chauhan, Former Additional Commissioner & Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Nikhil Tiwari, Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Sanjay Singh, Former Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Ambuj Sharma, Additional Director Revenue & Education MCD Civic Center

Mr. Anil Kumar, Deputy Director of Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Deputy Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Ram Kishan Bharti, Additional Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Ms. Kamna Rawat, Additional Director Education, MCD Civic Center

Mr. Dinesh Ram, School Inspector, MCD, Civic Center

Mr. Deo Nath Mahto, Deputy Director Education MCD Central Zone

Mr. Hriday Singh Tomar, School Inspector, MCD Central Zone

Ms. Angoori Devi, School Inspector, MCD Central Zone

Mr. Anil Kumar, Principal MCD School, Nizamuddin

Ms. Rajbala, School Incharge MCD School, Nizamuddin



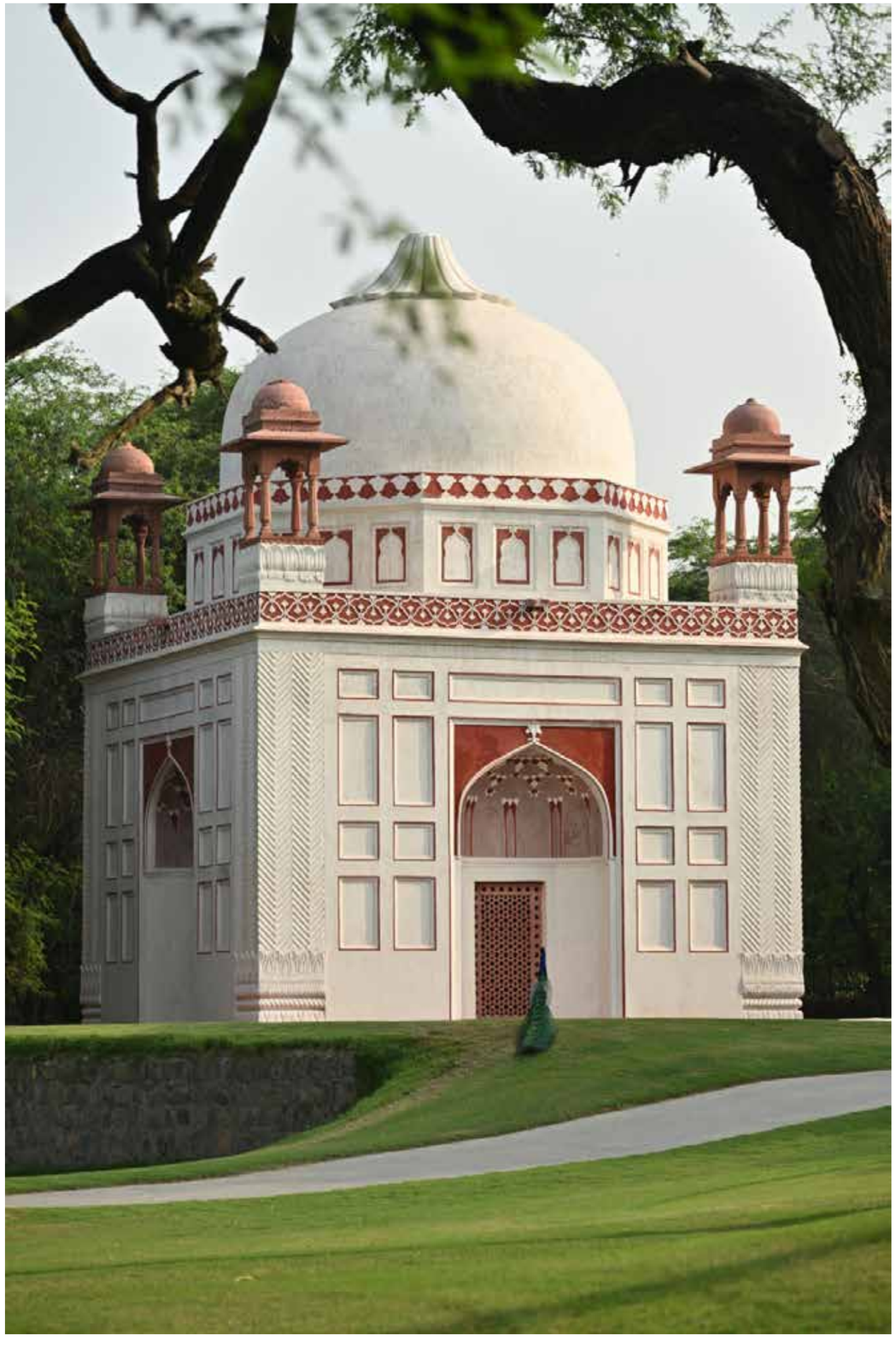
Department of Women & Child Development

Ms. Mitali Namchoom, IAS, Director, Department of Women and Child Development

Dr. Navlendra Kumar Singh, Former Additional Director

Mr. Syamander Singh, Child Development Programme Officer, ICDS

Ms. Madhu, Aanganwadi Supervisor



Aga Khan Development Network

Core Team

Mr. Ratish Nanda, CEO

Mr. Rajpal Singh, Chief Engineer

Ms. Archana S Akhtar, Project Director, Design & Outreach

Ms. Jyotsna Lall, Director Programmes, Socio

Mr. Somak Ghosh, Finance & Office Director

Ms. Ujwala Menon, Senior Project Manager, Conservation

Mr. Neetipal Brar, Project Manager

Conservation

Mr. Nouman Ahmad Siddiqui, Conservation Architect

Mr. Om Veer, Engineer

Mr. Akarshit Jain, Architect

Ms. Ashi Gupta, Architect

Design & Outreach

Ms. Vallery, Programme Officer - Design

Mr. Narendra Swain, Programme Officer - Documentation

Operations

Ms. Kavita Kanojia, Executive Assistant to CEO

Mr. Amil Saifi, IT Manager

Mr. Neeraj Gupta, Finance Manager

Mr. Vikas Sharma, Admin Officer

Ms. Rabia Siddiqui, Office Clerk

Mr. Himanshu Joshi, IT Engineer

Ms. Shumayila Ansari, Heirtage Guide

Ms. Shibli, Heritage Guide

Government Sunder Nursery Management Trust

Mr. Hardeep Thakur,Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Kashiram Bhandaria, Engineer-in-charge

Mr. Kiran Pal Singh, Horticulture-in-charge

Mr. Ankit Agarwal,Manager Account & Retail

Mr. Ashish Panwar, Horticulturist

Mr. Sundeep Kumar, Horticulturist

Ms. Nidhi Purohit, Programme Officer, Outreach

Mr. Dinesh Patial, Archivist

Mr. Rinkesh Rana, Graphic Designer

Mr. Rahul Kumar, Finance Officer

Mr. Chandra Prakash Maurya, MEP - Engineer

Mr. Bijender Mailk, Site Supervisor

Mr. Chhote Lal, Horticulture Supervisor

Mr. Bilal, Electrician

Mr. Kapil Mangla, Engineer Civil

Mr Balveer Singh, Administrative & Operation Assistant

Mr. Vinay Rajput, Security Officer

Mr Javed Khan, IT Officer

Mr. Anil Kumar, Kiosk Sale Assosciate

Mr. Vinod Kumar, Kiosk Sale Assosciate

Principal Consultants

Shaheer Associates, Landscape Consultants

Ms. Bhawna Dandona, Conservation Architect

Ms. Aparna Rajagopal, Beejom

Mr Rakesh Gupta, Golden Hive Foundation

Socio-Economic Programmes

Mr. Deepak Padhi, Consultant, Monitoring & Evaluation

Mr. Hyder M Rizvi, Programme Officer, Education

Ms. Ratna Sahni, Programme Office, Livelihood

Ms. Sakshi Sharma, Programme Officer,Health

Ms. Elizabeth K. Antony, Programme Coordinator, Community Development

Mr. Mohd. Rashid, Programme Assistant





Master-Craftsmen

Mr. Dhani Ram, Field Supervisor

Mr. Babu Lal, Supervisor cum Storekeeper

Mr. Amrik, Master Craftsman





Community Interface Groups

Health Team
Mehru Nisha, Shahjahan, Shabnam Roohi, Heena Nejam Zaidi, Suvaleha, Mohd. Ahsan, Mussarat

Urban improvements
Waste Management

Syed Sajid Ali, Anisa, Mobina, Munisha Begum, Shahida

Sanitation- Toilet Management

Mohd. Shariquddin, Anju

Urban Services and Environment

Mohd. Shawan

Insha-e-Noor Team
Directors - Meena, Amrita, Shaheen, Shabnam Shakir, Shabana, Humera, Azra, Zaida, Seema

Employees - Fehmina Baki, Rabiya, Krishan Mohan Shah, Sandeep Singh, Imran

Zaika-e- Nizamuddin
Noorjahan, Sakina, Saiba, Moina, Neha, Shehnaz, Fatima, Fatima khatoon, Kulsum, Rubina, Shakeela

Sair-e-Nizamuddin
Aamir Ahmed, Mohd Hammad, Zareen, Zaman. Sameer